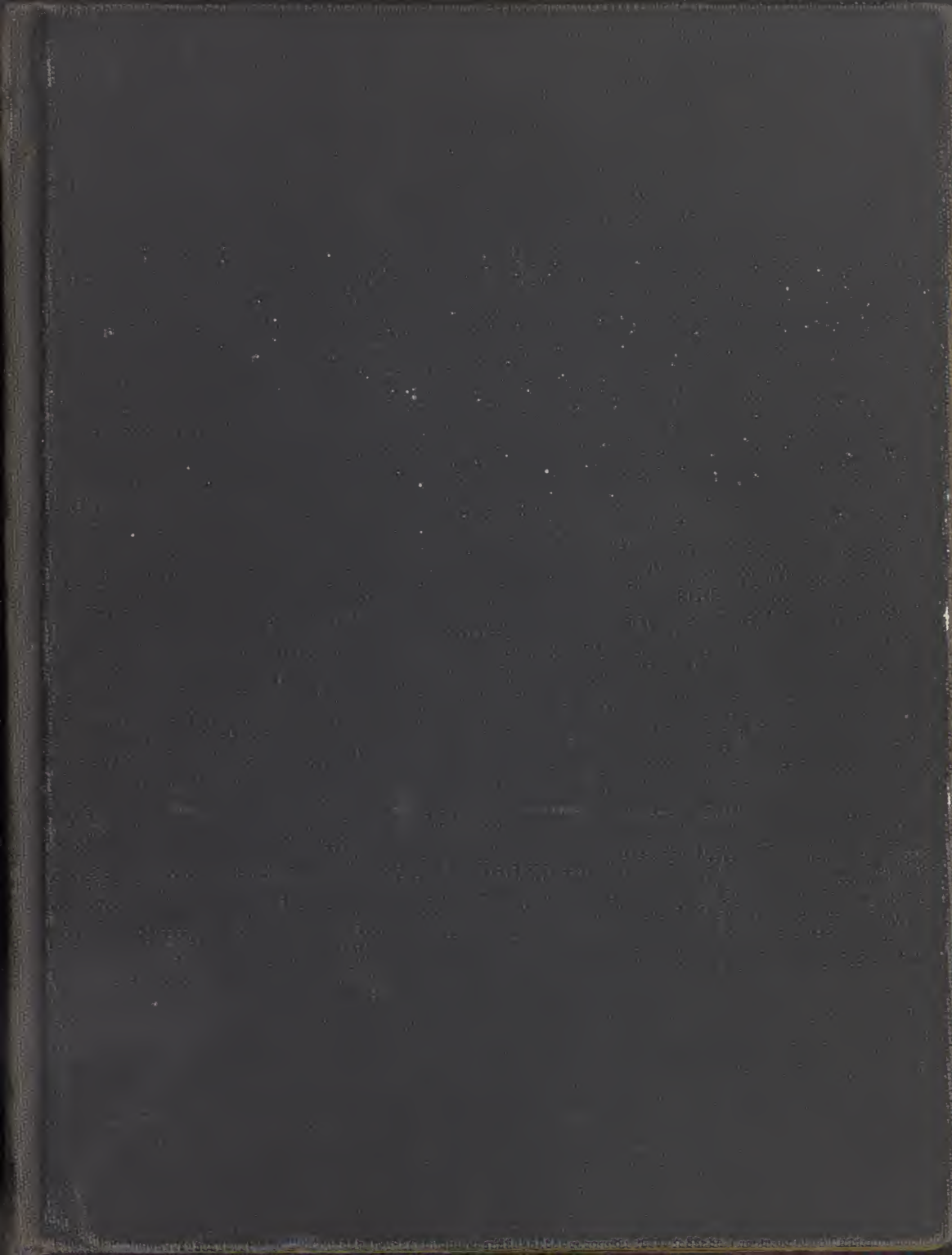
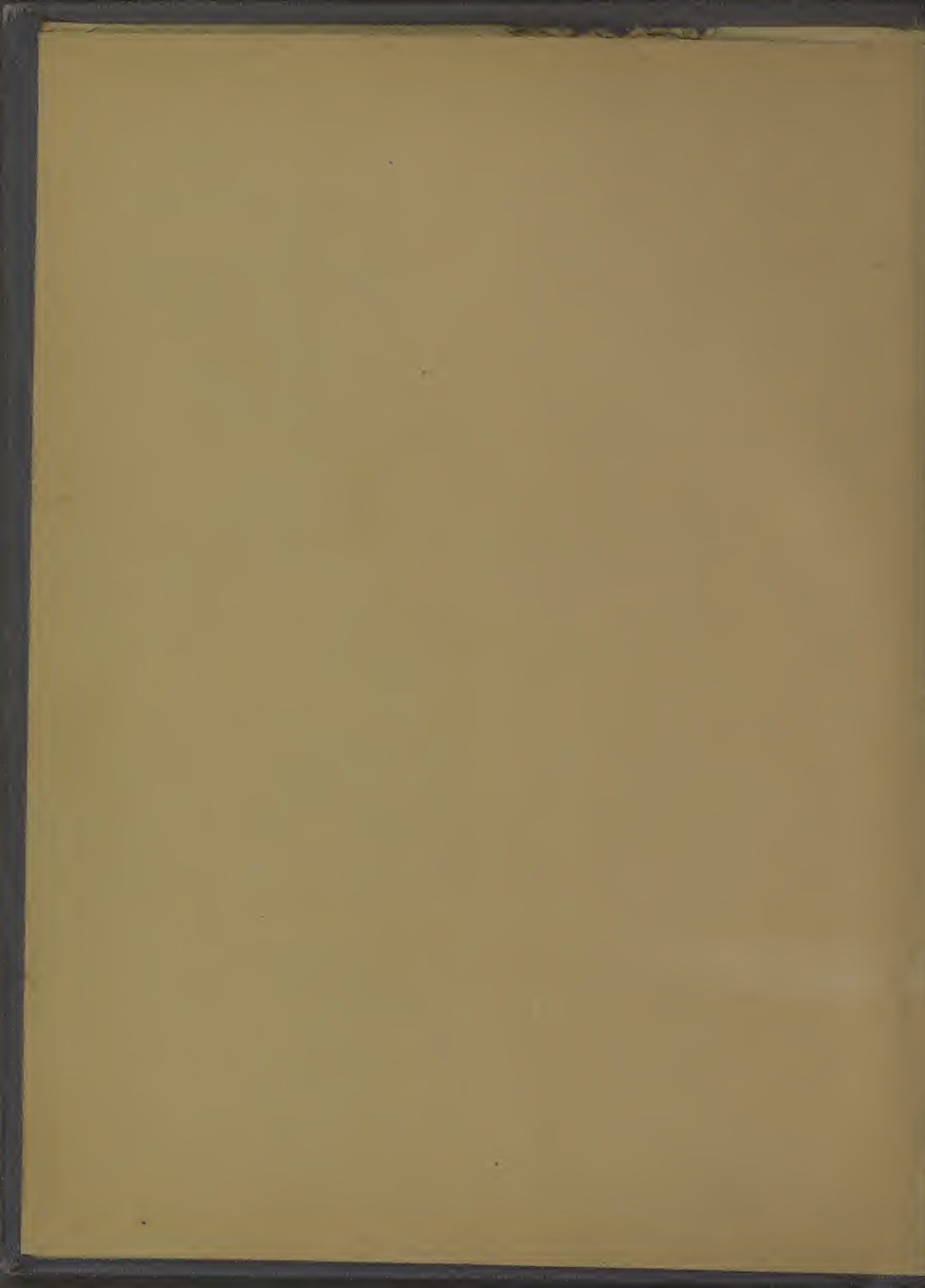


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices





Memory book: William A. Taylor retired as chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry on December 31, 1933, having served more than 20 years. He is now 81, but is so well and favorably remembered by his former associates that they recently presented him with a beautifully bound illustrated memory book, containing letters, group photographs, and other items in which he would be interested. The book was a lunch-time and after-hour, labor of love. It was presented to Dr. Taylor at his home in Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. J. R. Magness, an amazing tribute to a former employee so affectionately remembered after a dozen years in retirement.

January 8, 1945

Vol. IV, No. 1

SOURCE BOOK

This is a "scrap" book made up of duplicates and unused material supplied by friends of Dr. Wm. A. Taylor, former chief of BPI, for use in preparing the "memory book" mentioned in the clipping from USDA pasted above. The slim volume actually presented to Dr. Taylor and which was circulated at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. during October and November, 1944, contained perhaps 15 percent of the material in this book, but included all of the group pictures and, of course, the originals of all letters.

Dr. J. R. Magness was in Columbus, Ohio, early in December 1944, to deliver a lecture before the Fruit School of Ohio State College, and with Professor J. H. Gourley, Chairman of the Department of Horticulture, Ohio State, and former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture R. W. Dunlap, visited Dr. Taylor at his home the evening of December 5, 1944, and presented the book.

Prints of group pictures may be obtained from Robert L. Taylor, Plant Exploration and Introduction, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. 15¢ each
Mention WAT number and identify picture wanted by stating names of one of two persons in it, to avoid getting wrong print.



WILLIAM ALTON TAYLOR:

The Odyssey of a Department of Agriculture Career Man.

- 1863 Born June 23 at Chelsea, Michigan
- 1888 Graduated from Michigan Agricultural College with
B.S. degree (D. Sc. 1913). Michigan was then
recognized as the leading agricultural school of
the country.
- 1888 Managed a fruit farm, 1888-91, at Douglas, Mich.
- 1891 Appointed assistant pomologist in U.S. Dept. Agr.
- 1900 Made Chevalier du Merite agricole by France
- 1909 Sent to Panama at request of President Taft to make
agricultural survey
- 1910 Appointed Assistant Chief of Bureau of Plant Industry
- 1913 Made Chief of Bureau
- 1933 Retired. Reached retirement age June 23, but was con-
tinued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt until
December 31.



DR. WILLIAM A. TAYLOR

as he looked when he retired from the Federal Service December 31, 1933, after more than 42 years continuous service in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He was Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from 1910 to 1913, and Chief from 1913 to 1933. During his more than 42 years of service in the Department, he served under 10 different Secretaries of Agriculture and, especially during his later years, was confidential advisor to many of them.



WAT-32 C. A. Reed, July, 1944

THE ACORN

When Clarence A. Reed, passing through Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1944, paid a visit to Dr. Taylor and took a picture of him, his son Billy, and Mrs. Taylor, he planted the "acorn" from which this book has grown. For on his return to Beltsville when he displayed the picture everyone wanted to know all about Dr. Taylor and wished to be remembered to him when Mr. Reed wrote. In self defense, C. A. suggested that they write their own letters, offering to forward them to Dr. Taylor. After that, the deluge! In less than no time he had a score of letters to be forwarded and people were stopping him in the corridors or on the grounds to ask permission to include letters.

Then Robert L. Taylor, photographer for the Division of Foreign Plant Exploration and Introduction, suggested that group pictures be taken of employees who knew Dr. Taylor, to be sent along with the letters. He offered to help in taking such pictures. So did Wilfred Mead, photographer for the Division of Information; and P. S. Brown, photographer with Sugar Plant Investigations. So here are the groups, with newer as well as older employees included. Jack Ferrall, who is an amateur bookbinder, offered to assemble and bind the material, adding some pictures and reminiscences from his 40 years' service in the Bureau.

The book, then, is a labor of love, compiled at lunch time, after hours, and at odd moments. From late July until November, Clarence Reed could be seen almost any noon marshalling a group to be photographed. The book, too, constitutes an amazing tribute for it seems incredible that a man retired from an organization for a dozen years or more should still be remembered so clearly and so affectionately as to bring forth a spontaneous response such as this.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY, SOILS, AND
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF BUREAU

BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

September 11, 1944

Dr. William A. Taylor
Lake Ridge Farm
Fennville, Michigan

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I understand that some of your old associates are getting together a little volume for you, reminiscent of your long association with the Bureau. It was in 1917 that I came to work in your office and that is over a quarter of a century ago. It is twenty-three years since you brought me into my present assignment. It is thirty-three years since I first came to the Bureau. All of this indicates why I have perhaps reached that age where it is quite easy to reminisce.

Nevertheless, it is a temptation to reminisce because it takes your mind back to the pleasant days when we worked together in the Bureau. So much of the personality of the Bureau was given to it by yourself and Dr. Kellerman. It is more or less of a habit for some people to refer to the "good old days." When those of us who had the privilege of working with you refer to the "good old days," we really mean it from the bottom of our hearts. I shall always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity I had of working in intimate contact with you those many years. We now have a new physical plant. It has many very real advantages. We have nice buildings, facilities and land, and we are all together. But conditions have changed and many people are new. It is our hope that under conditions of today, there will be enough carry-over from the good old days to again develop a soul and again make it a vital and happy institution.

With the best of wishes, I am

Very sincerely,

H. E. Allanson
Business Manager of Bureau





L. H. Bailey

WAT-3

PROFESSOR LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY

"The Grand Old Man" of horticulture was born at South Haven, Mich. on March 15, 1858, and at the ripe old age of 86 is still working actively for American agriculture. He is editor of standard cyclopedias of agriculture and of horticulture and has written scores of books and hundreds of articles on agricultural topics. He was professor of horticulture at Michigan Agricultural College when Dr. Taylor studied there.

BAILEY HORTORIUM
NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

L. H. BAILEY, *Director*
PHILIP A. MUNZ, *Taxonomist*
ETHEL ZOE BAILEY, *Curator*
FLORENCE MEKEEL, *Illustrator*

Address
BAILEY HORTORIUM
SAGE PLACE, ITHACA, N. Y.

Sept. 20, 1944

Dr. W. A. Taylor,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a pleasure to add my testimony and congratulations along with others on your important and continued success in life. I find that you are now eighty-one years old. I was once that young myself; since that time the years have brought rare satisfactions as well as the usual obligations. I trust a similar experience may accrue to you.

Your work in the public interest has been long and sustained and competent. We have all been mindful of the excellence of your contribution to the organization of governmental and scientific affairs, and are under obligation for the clarity and uniformity of your personal efforts and organizing ability. To me all this is particularly gratifying since I remember you as an apt and earnest student when I was trying to learn how to teach.

Cordially yours, with best wishes,

L. H. Bailey



The old brick Administrative Building of the U. S. Department of Agriculture when Dr. Taylor reported in 1891. It was erected in 1868 at a cost of \$140,420, and torn down in 1930. As an experiment in road making, about 1,000 yards of concrete was laid on the carriage road in front of this building, the first kind of this type in Washington, D. C.



WAT-35

1891. Looking south toward the present site of the South Building at 14th and B Streets, Southwest, Washington, D. C. In the early days of the Department a good many of its offices and laboratories occupied buildings of the type shown.

A Tribute to Dr. W. A. Taylor

And to Other, Unselfish, Valuable Government
Workers of Whom He Is Typical

I NOTE from an appreciative article in the FLORISTS EXCHANGE for Nov. 11 [page 13] that Dr. William A. Taylor of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, having reached the age limit, has been placed on the retired list, the action to take effect Dec. 31.

Dr. Taylor's work brought him into close touch with the nurserymen. I am safe in saying that there is not a man who knows Dr. Taylor or ever came in contact with his work, who does not hold him in the highest regard and does not now wish him long life and health and happiness in his retirement.

I cannot remember when I did not know Dr. Taylor. I know that I was pestering him with letters asking for advice and information as far back as 30 years ago. I have been doing the same thing pretty regularly ever since. And there has never been an occasion when Dr. Taylor did not take all the time and go to all the trouble necessary to give me all and exactly the information asked for.

All nurserymen should know, and all do know who ever came in contact with Dr. Taylor, that he was invariably fair and square with us; an able, honest man and a gentleman, every inch of him.

You can't say much more about a man than that, can you?

We have, in the departments at Washington, a group of men, and not a small group, either, who have chosen to devote their talents and to give their lives to the public service. They knew, when they entered the service, that even in the highest places open to them, as heads of bureaus, their incomes, fixed by law, would afford them no more than a very modest living. They knew, too, that in private business or in the employ of big corporations, they could, many of them, earn far more money than the Government would pay them. Men of their type, holding high ideals, looking upon public service as a duty, a privilege and an honor, put behind them the thought of mere money making.

The Government should more suitably reward such service, ought at least to approximate what the same ability would command outside the Government service. We are not niggardly as a people; it is just that we haven't yet done what, in simple justice we ought to do.

Dr. Taylor is one of that group of departmental career men.

There is something very fine, something wholesome and stimulating in the example of men like Dr. Taylor, of men whose only expected reward is the honor of serving their country—our country. They are fine Americans. It is just such examples, just such lives as theirs, lived in the spirit of high ideals of public service, that make

us realize how Paul felt when he boasted, "I am a Roman citizen;" that make us proud to boast in the same spirit, "*Civis americanus sum!*" Dr. Taylor, in his quiet way, has helped to make it mean, by the contribution of his life and labors, something more to be an American.

In that feeling, I lift my hat to Dr. Taylor. May his days be long in the land he has served so long, so usefully, so ably, so unselfishly, so patriotically.

I am saying only what a hundred men I know, feeling it for those who may not have thought of saying it in this way, in this place.—JOHN WATSON, Winona, Minn.



100th Infantry Central Postal Directory, U.S. Department of War, 1922.
Wm. A. L. L. L. L. L.

Post Photo Series



One of the beauty spots near the old Department administrative building, this "summer house" was even more lovely in winter, as the photograph indicates. It was reported to be a popular rendezvous for the famous old game of "Popping-the-Question!"



WAT 36

March 1, 1908, the West Wing was completed and assigned to the Bureau of Plant Industry. 1, East Wing; 2, West Wing; 3, Bieber Building (home of Department library); 4, 220 14th st SW, headquarters for Division of Horticulture and Pomology; 5, New National Museum; 6, Smithsonian Institution; 7, Freer Art Gallery; 8, old red brick administrative building of the Department, torn down in 1930; 9, Press Service; 10, Bureau of Entomology; 11, temporary war buildings, some of which were occupied by the Department after the war. In fact, a good many of the private dwellings shown in the photograph were occupied by the Department.



The clock in the Post Office Department tower could be seen quite clearly from Dr. Taylor's office in the West Wing. This probably explains why he was so seldom home late for dinner!



'WAT-37

GOIN' FISHIN'

This picture shows a small lake in the Department grounds where the greenhouses were later put up. This is looking toward 14th street. It was reported that this lake was the remains of a former creek bed which had been incorporated into the land on what is now Constitution Avenue. The picture was made about 1897.



DR. B. T. GALLOWAY

He served as Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from its organization until 1912, when he was drafted to become Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. He held that position for 2 years and then resigned to become Dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University. He remained there until 1916, when he came back to the Department and spent the remaining years of his official life as pathologist in the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction.



WAT-36

1930. Showing the West Wing snugly up against the newly completed Administrative section. Nearly 30 years before Congress had appropriated but part of the money asked for by Secretary James Wilson with which to build an adequate structure in which to house the entire Washington staff. Congress assumed that he would take the reduced appropriation and, "cutting his garment according to the cloth," put up a smaller building. Instead the canny Scotchman used the fund as far as they would go toward constructing the building he had originally planned. There was just enough money to construct the two wings. On March 1, 1908, the West Wing was completed and assigned to the Bureau of Plant Industry. It was 22 years before Congress relented sufficiently to provide for the Administrative section, and the two wings, with the space between, like a missing tooth, were a continual source of jesting by guides and visitors.



WAT-40

Employees of the Division of Botany, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Photographed in 1902 on steps of building occupied at 224 12th Street, Southwest.

1, J. W. T. Duvel; 2, Edgar Brown; 3, F. H. Hillman; 4, W. F. Wight
5, David Waters; 6, Guy N. Collins; 7, Geo. F. Klugh; 8, Chas. Grant
9, J. K. Friedman; 10, Sam Keese; 11, Fred Boe; 12, Ivar Tidestrom
13, W. W. Stockberger; 14, V. K. Chestnut; 15, Carl S. Scofield
16, W. W. Tracy; 17, W. E. Safford; 18, Manuel Fraile; 19, Charles
Mansfield; 20, Frederick V. Coville; 21, Victor R. Bailey; 22, L. H.
Dewey; 23, W. H. Walpole; 24, W. R. Beattie; 25, Mrs. McBirney (Faye
Leonard); 26, Mrs. Emily Bergner; 27, Emma Doyle; 28, Marjorie Warner
29, Mrs. E. V. Johnson; 30, Ivy Hurdle; 31, Bessie Belle Oakley (Mrs.
R. A. Oakley); 32, Alice Cathcard; 33, Mrs. Elva E. Hicks; 34, Mary
M. McClure; 35, Mrs. L. E. Berryhill; 36, Alice Hinkel



Wat. 39

Employees of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology.
 Photographed on the steps of the building occupied by the Division at
 1304-1306 B Street Southwest, Washington, D. C. 1902

1, C. L. Shear; 2, C. P. Hartley; 3, T. Ralph Robinson; 4, T. H. Kearney; 5, C. O. Townsend; 6, M. E. Waite; 7, Erwin F. Smith; 8, A. F. Woods; 9, George T. Moore; 10, Herbert J. Webber; 11, Mark A. Carleton; 12, E. M. Chamberlain; 13, E. H. Bradley; 14, K. F. Kellerman; 15, B. F. Duggar; 16, Dean F. Swingle; 17, J. F. Brewer; 18, Frank L. Goll; 19, Jesse E. Norton; 20, W. A. Orton; 21, T. W. Raison; 22, W. R. McKinney; 23, Mrs. Edna Parker; 24, Nellie E. Fealy; 25, Mrs. Lucy Holton; 26, Elsie Lower; 27, Mrs. A. M. Smith; 28, Agnes Dyer; 29, Mabel Wheeler; 30, Agnes Quirk; 31, Flora W. Patterson.

September 14, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The following members of the staff of the former Bureau of Plant Industry Library send you their cordial greetings. We have many pleasant memories of the days when you were our Bureau Chief, and we were interested in the news of you and your family which Mr. Reed brought to us.

You may have heard that since Miss Barnett retired there have been many changes in our library service. All of the Bureau libraries are merged with the Main Library, and aside from a small branch at the Beltsville Station there is no longer a Plant Industry Library. Some of the staff have retired, but a few of us still carry on work which is of interest to the Bureau.

With this enlargement of the Main Library and its reorganization we have naturally lost some of the personal touch that was so distinctive in the Library of your day. It is to be expected that we who knew the Bureau under your leadership should look back to those "good old days" with some nostalgia. We hope that you may be interested in writing the history of the achievements of those days, as undoubtedly your recollections can provide information which no one else can supply.

Our very best wishes to you for health and good living in your future years, which we hope may be many.

Yours most sincerely

Alice C. Atwood
Magdalene R. Newman
Jessie M. Allen



Knowles A. Ryerson

Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from January 1, 1934 to October of the same year. He resigned to become Dean of the California Branch Agricultural Experiment Station at Davis, Calif.



WAT-14

This was the entire scientific staff of the Division of Plant Pathology except Dr. Erwin F. Smith, then on a field trip, and Dr. Newton B. Pierce, working in California. Dr. Waite took the picture in October 1893. Yes, he posed it, then stepped into position and operated the camera with a string tied to his ankle--quite a popular trick in those days!

Top Row: Joseph F. James, Editor; Theodore Holm; M. B. Waite; P. H. Dorsett
Bottom Row: David Fairchild; B. T. Galloway; Walter T. Swingle



WAT 14-A

--AND SOME TWENTY YEARS LATER, in 1912:

1, Walter T. Swingle; 2, M. B. Waite; 3, Mark Carleton;
4, A. F. Woods; 5, David Fairchild; 6, P. H. Dorsett
7, B. T. Galloway; 8, Erwin F. Smith

It PROBABLY never occurred to you, much less to the average American, that we should have many more food scarcities had it not been for three Department scientists of the Gay Nineties. One of these men argued to beat the cars; one looked at a tree; one looked at a cotton plant. As a result of that, nearly every food and fiber crop you can name is much more abundant today than it would otherwise have been.

These three men were research workers but, of course, they were also bureaucrats, for they worked in the Department, which was a bureaucratic organization even in those days. True, there was no BPISAE nor even a BPI then, but there was a Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, which became part of BPI when it was created in 1901.

This division began life as a Section of Mycology in the Division of Botany in 1886. It became a full-fledged division in 1890. Erwin F. Smith joined up with F. Lamson Scribner, chief of the Division, in September 1886. He was the man who argued.

Of course, he did lots of fundamental research on fungus and virus diseases of plants. In fact, he it was who initially called attention to the strong resemblance between crown gall of plants and human cancer. But he was especially struck with the finding of T. J. Burrill, of the University of Illinois, corroborated by J. C. Arthur, of the New York (Geneva) Agricultural Experiment Station, that bacteria could cause plant disease.

Smith argued

That was a novel and heterodox idea in those days. A lot of people, including a very smart German named Fischer, said it was just downright silly. Formerly plant diseases had been regarded as an act of Providence and there was very little you could do about them but pray. However, their inroads became so disastrous to farmers that they said the Department just must do something about them. The Department did.

Smith decided that bacteria caused a good many plant diseases hitherto attributed to fungi or to the malignance of Providence. Despite all opposition he pounded away in laboratory and in print. In a particularly famous and rather violent polemic he simply argued Alfred Fischer to cover. His work on bacterial plant diseases began in 1893, and by 1901 he had firmly established the new science.

Don't think it isn't important to establish a truth already happened upon by someone else. The man who, like Darwin, undertakes the arduous drudgery of putting over a theory someone else has already

flushed out intuitively, but lacks drive to put over, deserves all the thanks in the world. This kindly old gentleman, who in later life sat in a cluttered room in the basement of the West Wing of the Administration Building, has us all deeply in his debt.

Waite saw a pear tree

Meanwhile the question rose: How could plant and tree diseases spread as rapidly as they often did? This brings us to the man who looked at a pear tree as he came down to work, M. B. Waite. He had joined the staff in 1888 and was assigned to pear blight, a disease then devastating the pear orchards of the eastern United States. In 1878 the same Burrill mentioned above had found this disease to be caused by a bacterium to which he gave an impressive if not tasteful name.

What puzzled Waite was how a pear tree could have but one or two blighted blossoms one day and be blighted all over the very next. Then he remembered honeybees busily going from blossom to blossom, wiping their feet over everything, indiscriminately carrying . . .

Why, of course—they spread the bacteria! He examined some of them and found the pear blight bacteria on their mouth parts. He produced pear blight from these germs by inoculation. Insects could spread bacterial plant diseases. Enter the insect vector.

Again, some did not believe Waite. One crotchety old physician over on the Eastern shore of Maryland dared him to bring on the bees and try to blight doc's fine orchard by his fool methods. Waite took his dare. This finally made the doctor very unhappy, for his orchard was soon badly blighted. Waite, like Smith, was right, and he could prove it.

Orton saw a cotton plant

Meanwhile, William Allen Orton, a gangling New England youth, fresh

from college, joined Smith's staff. He was assigned to cotton wilt. This disease, caused by a fungus, was entirely destroying the cotton crop in large sections of the South. Orton had never seen a cotton plant in his life, so he went down South and looked at one. He was very much impressed by what he saw in a cotton field.

For he immediately observed that certain cotton plants for some reason did not contract wilt. They were resistant. He hazarded the guess that their resistance might be hereditary. If you like good rewarding reading, hunt up old Bulletin 27 of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, entitled "Wilt Disease of Cotton and Its Control," and find the rest of the story. This bulletin by Orton appeared in 1900. Orton was right.

Now we have a combination of scientific knowledge that was destined to be worth millions upon millions of dollars to American growers: (1) Bacteria can cause plant disease; (2) insects can spread the bacteria and the diseases; (3) some plants resist diseases caused by bacteria and fungi and, from them, resistant strains or lines can be bred. Of course this pioneer work was elaborated in thousands of experiments on hundreds of different plants by dozens and dozens of scientists who followed Smith, Waite, and Orton.

But the end product of it all these wartime days is that our crops are not hard smitten with diseases as they used to be. Methods of prevention and control have been worked out. Breeding for resistance is done with scientific precision. The entomologists have new insecticides to cope with the marauding insects which also spread disease.

In an address delivered in 1936, G. H. Coons, also a Department scientist, sought to estimate the annual value to farmers of disease-resistant varieties of the following crops only: Corn, wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed, beans, sugarcane, sugar beets, asparagus, cabbage, cantaloupe, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, peas, spinach, and tomatoes. He calculated that from \$65,000,000 to \$70,000,000 a year is saved by growers, due to their having resistant varieties.

It's worth money

This huge annual addition to farm wealth stemmed largely from research by Department scientists. It

is many times the annual cost of running the entire Department in the days of Smith, Waite, and Orton. Current bureaucrat Dr. E. W. Brandes has estimated that the improved plant materials issued by his own Division of Sugar Plant Investigations alone have conserved capital and augmented the national wealth by nearly a billion dollars. We will go into that in detail sometime.

In fact, we could go on and on. There is a great deal more to tell. But we are getting long-winded. However, if you like to know about such things; if this knowledge will help you sometimes to answer adverse critics of our work, if the existence of such outstanding research workers among us makes you feel closer to the Department as a living institution with a magnificent history—say so. There is more.

And, incidentally, the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, where this work finally headed up, cost the American people only \$14,000,000 during the first 44 years of its existence!



WAT-41

James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913, four full administrations. He had been a Member of Congress and before that had served in the State Legislature of Iowa. To distinguish him from another James Wilson also serving in the Legislature at that time, he came to be known as "Tama Jim" Wilson, after his home county, a nickname that followed him to Washington. He was one of the last "horse-and-buggy" Secretaries! The driver is "Sandy" Mason, quite a character himself about the Department in those days.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Permit me to add my words of greeting and to again express appreciation for the considerate association extended me through the many years you served as Chief of Bureau. What I especially remember and prize is the early experience when the Division of Pomology was located in a row of houses where the South Building now stands. That was about forty years ago and the associations of those days are still very close. Congratulations on the fine work done and in progress by you.

Very Sincerely,

/s/ J. H. Beattie

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is nice to have news of you from Ohio. I must have gone through your Michigan home section while making a trip from Anna Arbor to Grand Rapids on a redent vacation.

About the time you left the Bureau I came to Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Office of Plant Disease Control, where I do abstracting for Barberry Eradication and White Pine Blister Rust Control, and now also for such added projects as Dutch Elm Disease and many virus and insect pests.

From my present office room in the South Building in Washington, D. C. there is a fine view across the Potomac river, with the runway of the National Airport glistening in the sun, and planes gliding in and out.

We hope you will pay us a vist soon to see your old friends.

With best regards to Mrs. Taylor,

Sincerely,

(Angle M. Beckwith)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Mr. Reed's photo of you reminds me of the pleasant visit I had with you at Columbus a few months ago. I was not surprised to see you looking so well. I retire next January and hope I will have the health to enjoy doing some of the things I have saved up. Particularly I want to work up some of the material on David Douglas and other western botanical explorers in whom Professor Piper and I were interested.

My Japan trip has had some interesting by-products in the large collection of maps I brought home and the small but useful amount of knowledge I obtained of transliterating Japanese place names. My general knowledge of the country and its vegetation has helped some.

You would be interested in the work which we are doing on Cinchona diseases in the American tropics. Bowen Crandall is at Tingo Maria, Peru, working on what seems to be a Phytophthora root rot and William C. Davis has just gone to Guatemala City to head up a Foreign Agricultural Relations Experiment Station on Cinchona and other crops. They finance this but we supervise the pathological research.

Curtis May, who has done so well at Morristown, comes to Beltsville in a couple of weeks to take over much of my administrative work during the next few months. I have always been glad that I succeeded in getting him into the Bureau.

Mr. Swingle writes that the phloem necrosis is very bad again at Columbus this year.

With very best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

/s/ R. Kent Beattie

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Mr. Reed kindly gave me a copy of the family picture shortly after his return from Columbus in July, and it set me thinking about your varied achievements in the past and the good chance that they will be projected into the future.

The stalwart son standing between you and Mrs. Taylor impresses me as an achievement not less remarkable than achievement of the long list of friends and well wishers inscripting this book--or the Government agency that still bears the indelible imprint of your long and wise guidance.

One cannot help believing that the enduring, fine character of the edifice built during your period of public service has an uniquely inseparable relationship with your own. We hear a lot about the indispensable man just now (mostly denials from the recipient of the compliment) but any jury of your former colleagues would render the verdict that you came close to being indispensable in making the Bureau what it is.

Let us hope that the eroding years will have a hard struggle with the building materials to change them.

Very sincerely

(E. W. Brandes)

September 14, 1944

Dr. William A. Taylor
Lake Ridge Farm
Fennville, Michigan

Dear Dr. Taylor:

This letter will inform you of some of the happenings which have taken place since I last had the pleasure of seeing you.

As you may know, the Division of Soil Fertility Investigations was disbanded in 1940. First of all, the laboratory project was terminated in 1939, and the following year the rest of the Division went by the board, so to speak. Dr. J. J. Skinner was transferred to the Cotton Division; L. A. Hurst to Sugar Plants; and I to the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, my direct assignment being to the Potato Project with which I became associated officially on July 17, 1940. This means I have been located at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md. for a little over 4 years.

Personally, I like it very much where I am stationed and am accommodated with a nice combination office-laboratory. My work is devoted entirely to potato soil fertility and fertilizer investigations. The experimental work is being conducted largely in Maine and New Jersey, with some work in Virginia. Before I came out here we worked also in New York, Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, but had to curtail the work because of lack of funds.

Dr. Schreiner retired last December, 2 years before reaching the age limit of 70. He looks very well. I saw him yesterday and he asked ~~me~~ me to extend to you his sincerest regards.

Many people are averse to the ride to and from work here, especially those living in Virginia. I ride with other people, so do not mind the trip at all, as it only takes us about 20 minutes to make a one-way trip.

We have a very extensive plant industry station here, which you will be able to visualize from the pictures I understand will be sent to you. It is quite a large plant and the facilities for research work are very good indeed. Unfortunately, no provision has been made for a cafeteria; at least as yet.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

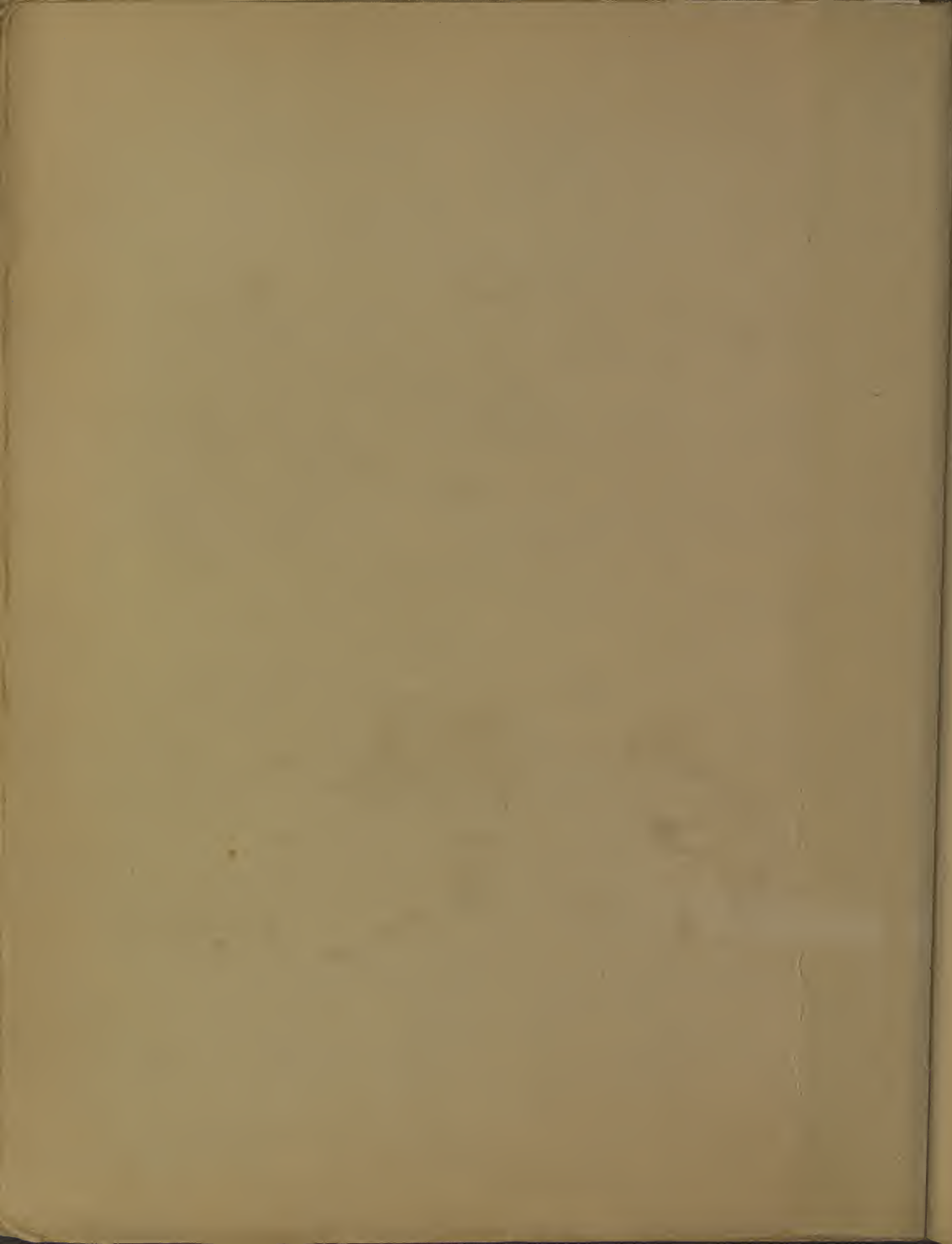
(Bailey E. Brown)

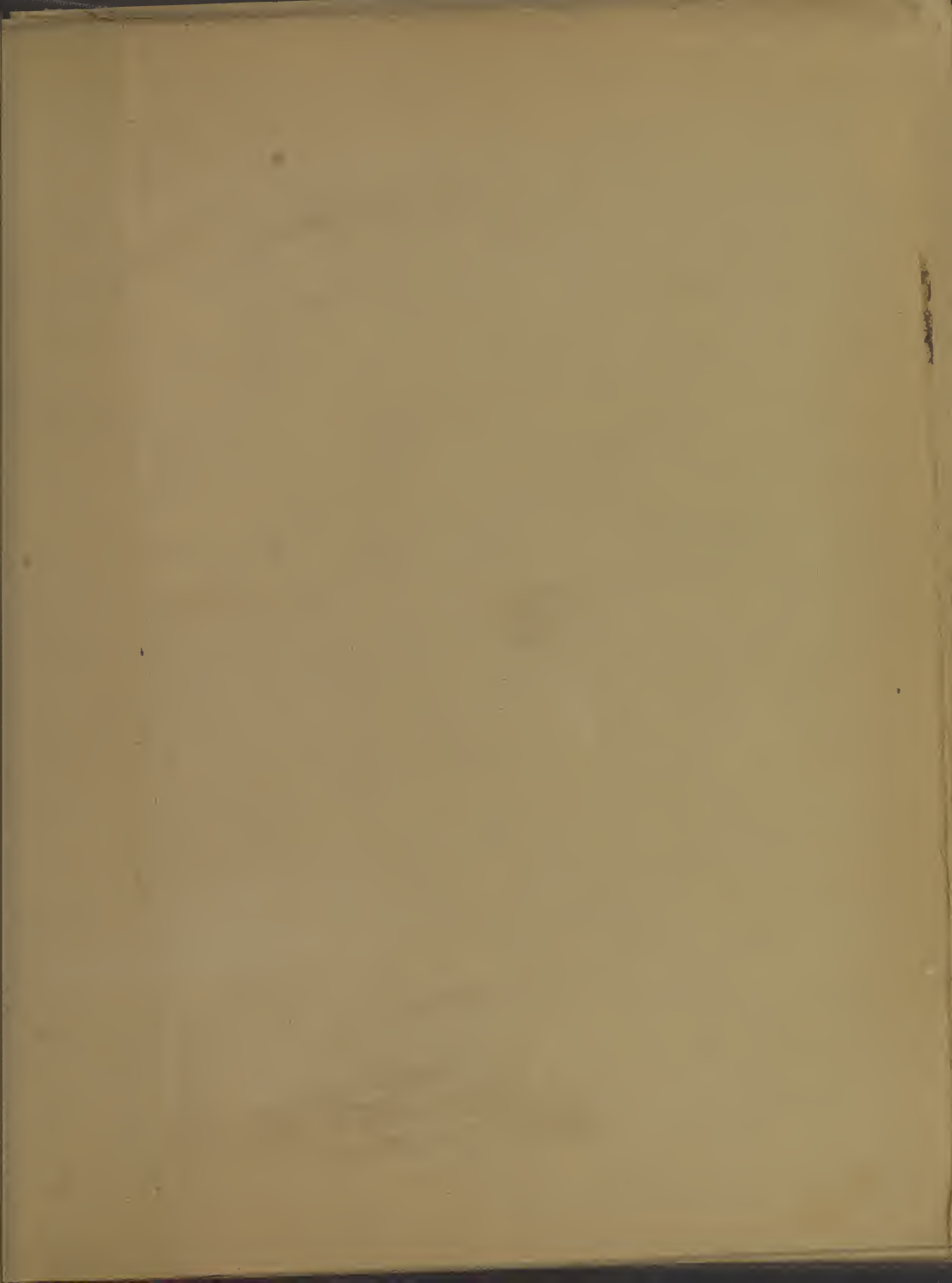


WAT-42

A group of employees of the Division of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations, Photographed July 7, 1914

1, H.P. Gould; 2, Mrs. Gould; 3, R.L. Sharp; 4, Gus Pederson; 5, F.E. Bechtold; 6, C.P. Close; 7, H.C. Thompson; 8, Amanda A. Newton; 9, Mae McWilliams; 10, Jeanette Campbell; 11, Georgia Sturtevant; 12, Mary D. Arnold; 13, W. F. Fletcher; 14, A.V. Stubenrauch; 15, Julia Pearce; 16, Emma C. Herrick; 17, Grace O'Neil; 18, Geo. M. Darrow; 19, H.J. Ramsey; 20, S. J. Dennis; 21, W.F. Wight; 22, Wm. Stuart; 23, A.W. McKay; 24, Geo. C. Husmann; 25, Chas. Bearing; 26, Hugh Davis; 27, Howard Yahraus; 28, Alice Engle; 29, D. N. Shoemaker; 30, Ruby Ridenhower; 31, Margaret Connor; 32, C. A. Reed; 33, Mrs. Stubenrauch; 34, Mabel Hiatt; 35, Bailey Stubenrauch; 36, Ellen R. Schutt; 37, Clara E. Ballard; 38, H. E. Clark; 39, L. B. Scott; 40, August Maier; 41, Pat Mercy; 42, S. K. Ellison.





Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am pleased to hear from Clarence Reed that you and your family are enjoying good health. The picture he brought back proves this to be true.

There have been many changes in our Bureau since you left us. When our division lost its identity three years ago I was transferred to Dr. Emsweller's office to handle cultural inquiries of various ornamentals.

I frequently think of your kindness to me, particularly the time you put me in charge of Gardens and Grounds.

With best wishes for Mrs. Taylor's, "Billy's" and your continued good health, I am,

Sincerely,
J. WISE BYRNES

Dr. William A. Taylor
30 Berkeley Place
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I hope you are enjoying your freedom as much as I am. As you may know I too have retired but that does not mean that I have lost interest in the progress of my former office or in my particular work. I come out to Beltsville a day or so each week in order to continue work. I have spent several winters in Florida and have been fortunate in collecting certain new or rare fungi which are deposited with the Mycological Collections. Our collection of Entomogenous fungi has had many additions but we hope entomologists will be interested enough to send us material more frequently. Dr. and Mrs. Shear have spent several winters in Florida and we do our collecting together, incidentally conserving gas by using our cars alternately.

Mr. Stevenson has been able to acquire some very fine collections, including many types and as a result the Mycological Collections have continued to increase in value to mycologists and pathologists.

While I appreciate the endeavors of the present or new workers I shall always be glad that my work began during the administration of, we may say, the early group of scientists headed by Dr. Galloway and continued by you.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Taylor and best wishes for your health and pleasure.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Vera K. Charles

Dear Dr. Taylor:

There are times when one, being too filled with emotion, cannot express himself in words. Truly this is one of those times, so I am going to simply say "Hearty Congratulations!" to you on this remarkable occasion, with hopes that you will understand how happy that I am to learn that times have been both kind and lenient to you. You have my sincere wishes for continued happiness and good fortune for many years to come.

Sincerely,
(James P. Bourke, Jr.)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am very glad to take this opportunity of joining with other members of the Division in extending my greetings and best wishes. In spite of many recent changes in the Department, there are still many of us left who have most pleasant recollections of the days when you were our Bureau Chief.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Edith K. Cash

Dear Doctor Taylor:

Mr. C. A. Reed, whose friendship, among the many others of the Bureau, I have come to prize, invited me to join your old friends in a word of greeting. You may not remember me very well -- I was editor of the Biological Survey Publications for 29 years -- but I remember with real pleasure our few meetings and I think that possibly Mrs. Taylor may remember Mrs. Cheesman in the Agriculture Department's Red Cross work in the other war.

The name "Dr. Taylor" now comes to my ears more frequently, of course, than that of Dr. Nelson, of the Biological Survey, so I feel that I am becoming adopted into the Plant Industry family, which I joined as editor nearly two years ago, when the former Biological Survey (now Fish and Wildlife Service) was transferred to Chicago, and just before my old friend Mr. Pickens retired. When Mrs. Avery left us, Mrs. Gravatt and I divided the editorial responsibility, her domain being in the field of Fruits and Vegetables and of the Journal of Agricultural Research.

My job is that of trying to maintain the standards of publications of the other Divisions, including the Soil Surveys and contributions from Agricultural Engineering. I am glad to see from your latest photograph that you and your family are looking so well, and you have my sincere congratulations on this and my best wishes that you may have many years of enjoyment of life under a return of peace-time conditions.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Wm. H. Cheesman

Dear Doctor Taylor:

You would hardly remember me, but nevertheless I was one of your little clerks in the office of Cereal Crops and Diseases working for Doctors Ball and McCall at the time under your direction as Chief of Bureau.

Knowing such a high type character as you and doing the work assigned me made me very happy, and in looking at your pictures it made me feel very good to reminiscent back a few years.

Hoping you and yours are enjoying the best of health and are getting all out of life that is humanly possible. I am,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Hugh E. Clark

Dear Doctor Taylor:

You will not remember me except by name and my work--chestnut breeding. Between 5,000 and 6,000 hybrids have been produced since I took over this work in 1925. These hybrids resemble those made in other plant genera in that many are called but few are chosen. Apparently the most important characteristics in Castanea are controlled by multiple factors. A few hybrids made by Walter Van Fleet are thriving at Bell. These hybrids apparently were derived from crosses made between the Chinese and Japanese chestnuts. The best known of these hybrids, S-8, probably has some chinkapin "blood" in it. To my knowledge there is no hybrid of Van Fleet's having American chestnut "blood" in it that is alive today. We now attempt to "boost" the blight resistance of American chestnut hybrids by backcrossing them with selected Chinese and Japanese chestnut trees. Fortunately, in recent years, chestnut cross have been made on a higher plane than before when the amount of selection material was small.

I wish you and Mrs. Taylor many more years of health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Russell B. Clapper

Hello Dr. Taylor:

You will remember that I worked in your office during the early plant patent days. It was a real pleasure to work with you and I have many pleasant memories of those times.

I am now with Dr. Leighty in Dry Land Agriculture, and continue to believe that Plant Industry is the best official family ever!

Best wishes,

/s/ Louise Clouse

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am glad to see the pictures showing you looking so well and wish I might see you personally. Until he left us, it was a habit with me to inquire of "Billy" Taylor concerning you. I have recently returned from a field trip in the Great Plains. Where I once drove through hundreds of miles of short grass, sage, mesquite, and other native vegetation, are now solid fields of wheat, grain sorghums, and cotton, with the necessary arrearage of fallow and land being cultivated to conserve water in a land of scanty rainfall. A volume would be necessary to tell how much of this development has come from the research work of the Bureau which you guided for so many years.

Sincerely,

JOHN S. COLE

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Seeing your picture - the splendid one Mr. Reed took and showed me - reminds me of the days I worked in the Bureau when you were the chief. I suppose every fellow thinks he has the hardest nut to crack of all - so I naturally thought my various problems have all been exceedingly hard to even get a toe hold as a place to even start. However we always had plenty of rope and best of all understanding sympathy and encouragement from the Chief of the Bureau.

From all evidences you must be enjoying your practical horticultural work and I am glad for you that that is the case. I am devoting some of my spare out of office time to breeding daylilies and narcissus - I live within sight of the lab and hence have longer at home than the city dwellers who spend so much of their lives riding.

You may be interested to know I have a more or less new problem - new to me at least - viz. trying to keep sweet potatoes from rotting in transit and in storage and the market. After 2 yrs. work on it I am coming to the opinions this also is a man-sized job.

Wishing you many years of profitable and happy work
I am very sincerely yours

/s/ J. S. Cooley

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am pleased to learn that you are well and that you are active and enjoying your farming operations. While you are far away from administrative duties in Washington, we often think and speak of you. I thoroughly enjoyed my subordinate duties under your leadership in the great Bureau of Plant Industry, and always appreciated your kindness and consideration.

I join with others of your fellow workers in the Department in wishing you many years of happy retirement.

Respectfully,

(Bernard Connor)

Columbus 10, Ohio
November 3, 1944

Dr. M. A. McCall, Assistant Chief
Bureau of Plant Industry
Beltsville, Maryland

Dear Sir:

Few men have contributed more to the molding of horticulture in its formative period in America than Professor William A. Taylor. I consider it an opportunity to express my high regards for his service in the field which I, too, am spending my active career.

While I know little of the details of the development and evolution of the Bureau of Plant Industry, I have seen its ultimate fruition. That its organization and the extent of its activities were largely the concept of Professor Taylor, I am sure. His judgment on important matters was sound, his counsel wise, and his friendly and kindly disposition, together with the courage of his convictions, smoothed the way for the great development which it has had. His native ability and intellectual stature made him the man that was needed at the time when agriculture and horticulture were emerging into a science in its own rights.

My hearty congratulations and warm personal regards go to Professor Taylor as he is honored by all those who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Gourley, Chairman
Department of Horticulture and Forestry
College of Agriculture, Ohio State
University.



October 1920

A small group of Fruit Disease Investigations employees "take the air."

1, B. O. Dodge; 2, H. R. Fulton; 3, E. A. Siegler; 4, J. S. Cooley
 5, Elizabeth Calkins; 6, A. C. Hall; 7, J. W. Roberts; 8, Lee Hutchins
 9, Angie Beckwith; 10, Ruth Starrett (nee Colvin); 11, C. L. Shear
 12, Mrs. F. E. Kempton (nee Ellen A. Fenner); and 13, M. B. Waite

Dear Dr. Taylor:

As you will recall, I came to the Bureau in 1924 on loan from Michigan State College, and in 1929 entered the Bureau for work on Sugar Beets with Dr. Brandes. I had had the pleasure of teaching plant pathology to your son Porter, and although a confirmed pedagogue, I did not find it too difficult to learn the ins and outs of Bureau regime. I suspect that you and those in the Bureau office helped in many unseen ways to make the transition easier.

Your leadership in agriculture was well known to me from my early contacts with Orton, Brandes, Carlton, Ball, and others. I knew your broad policies for plant improvement. Accordingly, when in the Bureau, I received sympathetic consideration and wise guidance on the problems confronting the Division of Sugar Plants as it girded for the attack on leaf spot and curly top of sugar beets.

You will be interested in the outcome of the plans of attack formulated under your guidance. The leaf-spot-resistance breeding program with sugar beets has succeeded in developing highly resistant varieties and these now constitute the major varieties grown on the more eastern areas. You may recall in about 1931 or 1932, we announced to you the discovery that leaf-spot-resistant inbreds, low in vigor, would, when hybridized in proper matings, give high-yielding hybrids. Thus with sugar beets we could take advantage of hybrid vigor as with corn. The first single cross U. S. 200 X 215 proved successful, but has now been succeeded by a more resistant one, U. S. 215 X 216. In turn, this is to be replaced by "Improved" U. S. 215 X 216. These new introductions, because of their resistance to leaf spot and their vigor, exceed in productiveness the European types formerly grown by at least 10 percent. In this comparison, I refer to the over-all average relations covering a wide region in the United States. In close comparisons, where leaf spot is serious, the advantage is, of course, far greater.

A more dramatic story can be told for the curly-top-resistant varieties, product of the early research, and the augmented program begun in 1929. Again resistant varieties have proved to be the effective method of control--U. S. 1 tested in 1931 and 1932, and introduced in 1933 and 1934 gave fair control and allowed the western industry to stay alive; then in quick succession U. S. 34, U. S. 33, and U. S. 12 were introduced. These selections from U. S. 1 gave far better control. Recent introductions, such

as U. S. 22, that stem from the U. S. 1 complex, are now used almost exclusively in the more exposed districts. In California, because varieties stemming from U. S. 1 tend to bolt in winter plantings, U. S. 15, less curly-top resistant but nonbolting, is used. U. S. 15 was selected in 1928 at State College, New Mexico, and had its tests in the 1930-1932 period.

The introduction of curly-top-resistant varieties has had profound effects on the West since the sugar beet is the key crop in their agriculture. Farmers now plant beets confident that the "white fly" will not bring destruction. The sugar beet has re-entered territories abandoned because of curly top, new factories have been built in districts once considered hazardous--at Toppenish, Washington, a factory has gone up on the site of the one torn down because of curly top.

To me, the Bureau is a group of men who have a certain philosophy of agriculture, a method of thought and a strategy of attack on problems. The precedents, the skills, the know-how, and the application stem from the history of the Bureau and the basic concept of its functions. My personal feeling is that we today are following in the paths blazed earlier with you as leader.

I am delighted to note the robustious health portrayed by the photograph Mr. Reed brought back, and to see that the baby that was, now towers tall beside his father and mother.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ G. H. Coons
Principal Pathologist

Dear Doctor & Mrs. Taylor:

Many times during the intervening years my memories have taken me back to the good old days when I was employed in the Office of the Chief of Bureau, and I always have the most pleasant memories of both of you.

I was employed in the Office of James E. Jones and was associated with Mrs. Cunningham, Lydia Nichols, Lenora Fuller, Billy Taylor, Fred Frost, Elizabeth Mermion, Fred Moise, Mr. Caruthers and many other kind folk.

Perhaps you both remember me. I was the little girl with the long red-gold curls who came to work at the tender age of 15 during the last war. My name was Thelma Hayes.

Since those days I have acquired a husband and two fine husky boys who are now aged 15 and 17 respectively. They are a continuing source of pleasure and happiness to both my husband and me.

I came back home to the Bureau in 1939 and Mr. Allanson placed me with the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases. In 1942 I transferred to the Division of Irrigation Agriculture where I now am working with Mr. Scofield in the capacity of Head Clerk. I also assist him in his current experiments which I find both educational and extremely interesting.

We here in the Division were so pleased to hear of you both and the boy. And wish to extend to you both and the boy our desire for your continued happiness during the years to come.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thelma H. Conway



WAT-16

I. A group of employees on the steps of the North Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by Robert L. Taylor, Aug. 24, 1944.

1, C.O. Erlanson; 2, Mary Morris; 3, R.A. Young; 4, Robert Jones; 5, O.R. Mathews; 6, S.H. Eastings; 7, Thelma Conway; 8, Wm. W. Diehl; 9, R. E. Clapper; 10, Chas. Dawson; 11, Paul Miller; 12, R.W. Davidson; 13, E.B. Hickerson; 14, Jessie I. Wood; 15, Edith Cash; 16, Walter Roney; 17, Walter Barnes; 18, Sarah G. Managanaro; 19, M.E. Fowler; 20, Carl Hartley; 21, Louise Clouse; 22, Nellie Nance; 23, Anna Jenkins; 24, Mary VanMeter; 25, R. Kent Beattie; 26, Benjamin J. Ford; 27, A.P. Talbert; 28, A.L. Mullican; 29, J.A. Stevenson; 30, Freeman Weiss; 31, J.R. Cole; 32, M.H. Waite; 33, C.E. Leighty; 34, Lee Hutchins; 35, Hugh Jack; 36, Nicholas Schlegel; 37, Robert L. Taylor.



WAT-2

II. A group of employees photographed on steps of north wing of Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. by R. L. Taylor Aug 28, '44

1, E. L. Green; 2, C.E.Steinbauer; 3, L.O.Regeimbal; 4, Charles Drechsler
 5, Mrs. May R. Jenkins; 6, Olive Baxley; 7, Katherine Brothers; 8, C.A.Reed
 9, Frank L. Goll; 10, S.P.Doolittle; 11, Wm. S. Porte; 12, L. L. Harter
 13, H.H.Moon; 14, Anna C. Bider; 15, W.W.Aldrich; 16, John W. Roberts
 17, J.B.Demaree; 18, Victor E. Boswell; 19, Charles E. Kellogg; 20, Marguerite S. Wilcox; 21, H. T. Crane; 22, Guy E. Yerkes; 23, J. Wise Byrnes

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Reed has told us how well you are and interested in us all. It's nice to hear of you. Sat. the 22 I called on Dr. Hedrich at Geneva and found him well. He showed us his gardens and his new book. We see Dr. Waite often. I wish we might see you at Cleveland September 12 - to - 14 - With best wishes

Sincerely

/s/ George M. Darrow

Dear Dr. Taylor,

It was very good to learn from Mr. Reed of your good health and continued interest in the development of the Bureau. Some of us are still on the job despite war and low water. Those of us working in the field of Mycology are facing the continued development of fungus farms on a factory scale for making so many new products, pencillen being but one, that we can almost call ourselves horticulturists. All this keeps us busier than ever - and we hope more alert.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ William W. Diehl

Dear Doctor Taylor:

This morning Mr. C. A. Reed told me of his recent visit with you in Columbus and showed me the photograph he obtained at that time, as well as two earlier ones. It was pleasant to hear about you and to see the evidence of your continued well being. I am glad for the opportunity to join with others in notes of greeting. Memories of the busy, happy years spent in association with you are among the prized compensations I shall take with me after a few more months, into the leisure ahead, when I anticipate doing at least a part of the things I have always hoped to do but never have done.

Dr. Shear who is just now convalescing from a prostatic operation, still maintains his interest in fungi. He and Miss Charles regularly spend two days a week with us, all that rationed gasoline permits.

With warm personal greetings,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ H. A. Edson

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am especially glad to have this opportunity of sending greetings to you, with wishes for your continued health and happiness. I want also to express my appreciation, which has grown stronger with the passing years, of the interest you always showed in the work that fell to my lot in the Bureau, and of the helpful stimulation this interest afforded me. Your and Dr. Kellerman's administration of the Bureau will always be remembered by me as one of outstandingly able and constructive leadership.

Mrs. Fulton wishes me to convey her thanks again for your helpfulness in getting her by the guard at the B Street entrance to the West Wing the first time she came to the building. She arrived a few minutes after closing time, and the guard, who didn't have my name on his list, wouldn't let her in. You saw the impasse' as you were going out and offered to help. She still remembers the twinkle in your eye when she insisted that you would have to ask the guard's permission to show her the way to my office.

With regards and best wishes,

Very sincerely,

/s/ Harry R. Fulton

Dear Doctor Taylor:

Your old bureau has grown greatly even though it was a big one before you left. Started in good place, with a good purpose by people who had capacity and interest and enthusiasm it is now like a well established boxwood that inches along and remains a permanent part of the country.

The recent years have brought change to every part of the Department, as was to be expected. For me the best one that has affected me personally was the shift that put me in B.P.I. or, to be windier and more exact, B.P.I.S.A.E. It is the best situation I have had in the Department.

I am glad to hear the good reports from Mr. C. A. Reed about you and your family. I have happy recollections of Associations with you.

/s/ Charles Gapen

Dear Dr. Taylor,
and Mrs. Taylor,

Greetings from an, "old-timer" whose duty now-adays is handling a new crop ----- gas rations ----- in order to keep the rest of the important "boys" working.

Sincerely,

F. L. GOLL



WAT-3

III. A group of employees on the steps of the south wing of the Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by Wilfred Mead, August 28, 1944:

1, M.H.Heller; 2, Mrs. L.W.Kephart; 3, Harriet L. Grant; 4, L.P.McCulloch
 5, Mrs. E.L.Green; 6, J.F.Gateley; 7, J.R.Magness; 8, Ross C. Thompson
 9, Mrs. M.M.Strout; 10, F. J.Stevenson; 11, D.H.Rose; 12, G.H.Billings
 13, Lena Hettinger; 14, John A. Ferrall; 15, C.F.Kinman; 16, Florence Hedges
 17, Etta L. Ricser; 18, H.R.Fulton; 19, D.F.Fisher; 20, Paul G. Russell
 21, Wm.H.Cheesman; 22, Helen Ferguson; 23, R. C. Wright; 24, Lyla K. Fowle
 25, Wm. Stuart; 26, E. L. Crandall; 27, C. S. Scofield



8-29-44

WAT-4

IV. A group of employees on the steps of the Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by Robert L. Taylor, Aug. 29, 1944

1, Mrs. Annie R. Cravatt; 2, Francis D. Gude; 3, Thomas S. Higgs, Jr.; 4, Sherwood P. Van Waters; 5, Arthur Jones; 6, Marcus I. Jaeger; 7, Geo. F. Gravatt; 8, C.B. Doyle; 9, James H. Thomas; 10, Fred C. Frost; 11, Helena C. Spraker; 12, Mrs. Laura T. Griffith; 13, H.P. Gould; 14, W.E. Lydenberg; 15, M. A. McCall; 16, Henry E. Allanson; 17, John H. Stephenson; 18, C. M. Matheny; 19, Geo. E. Holmes; 20, Geo. M. Darrow; 21, Frank P. Cullinan.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

This is written to offer my greetings and best wishes along with many others here at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. I was brought into the Bureau in 1931, and have been at Beltsville from the first. We hope you will find it possible to visit this station and see how the work is going on.

My work on the chemistry of fungicides had to be interrupted for two projects of interest in the war, some studies on the compression of vegetable foods and on the retention of sulfur dioxide by dehydrated foods treated with it.

Very truly yours,

(E. L. Green)

My dear Dr. Taylor:

I am such a recent member of B.P.I. that I have never had the pleasure of working for you, for which fact I am regretful. It must be a great pleasure to be of service to you, judging by the warm regard with which you are remembered by your former associates and friends.

Permit me to join all the rest in wishing you much happiness and many happy years in your present circumstances. Surely the joy of being remembered with love and respect is yours.

Cordially yours,

/s/ (Mrs. E. L.) Carolyn O. Green
Division of Forest Pathology

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I have just seen the fine picture of the Taylor family, taken by Mr. C. A. Read at Columbus, Ohio, last July. I am sincerely glad to see you, Mrs. Taylor and Billy looking so well. It is a pleasure indeed to offer at this time my hearty congratulations on your 51st birthday, and to wish you good health and happiness for many years.

Both you and Mrs. Taylor will remember me as being with the old Division of Cotton, Truck Crop and Sugar Plant Investigations, when it was under the direction of the late Dr. W. A. Orton. I am now with the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations as head clerk, under Dr. E. W. Brandes.

Sincerely,

(Garner A. Green)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The group picture of you and your family has brought back to all of your old friends and admirers fond memories of yesterday. Although I do not belong to that envious group that may have the honor of calling you an old friend, I certainly and definitely belong to that group that has had a chance to admire you and your fine work in horticulture. We were all glad to see that you were hale and hearty and that the years have been very kind to you.

Sincerely yours,

(M. C. Goldsworthy)

Dear Doctor Taylor:

The pictures indicate that you must be feeding that boy with the high-vitamin content fruits and vegetables of the Bureau to get such growth. Possibly it is the blight-resistant chestnuts that he has been munching, as we have some nice ones growing out in Ohio.

The work with chestnuts continues along the same general lines, and some of the earlier forest plantings, put out when you were with the Bureau, are now 40 to 50 feet tall and look quite promising for making small telephone poles.

I thought you would be interested in hearing about some of the older men of our office, whom you knew:

- E. P. Meinecke, at San Francisco, has been retired for some years and is enjoying fair health
- W. H. Long, at Albuquerque, has been quite sick but is back on his feet now and still turns out a manuscript now and then on fungi
- C. J. Humphrey is out in California, and when last heard from was doing consultation work with reference to tree surgery
- George Hedgcock has been retired for some years, and is in very poor health. He is at the Laurel Sanitorium
- Perley Spaulding is still going strong at the New Haven office, with some 4 years before retirement
- Kent Beattie reaches the retirement age of 70 years in January and Curtis May, from our Morristown office, is coming down to take his place
- Glenn Hahn is still busy at New Haven with his resistant currants, in which you were much interested

As for myself, official work goes on about as when you were here. My week ends go into the continued development of Scientists' Cliffs, which Mrs. Gravatt and I started and which has now grown to a colony of 51 cottages. Mrs. Gravatt is continuing her work with Fruit and Veg. as scientific editor.

The Bureau would certainly enjoy a visit from you, and you would surely derive pleasure from seeing the development of projects in which you were interested.

Sincerely,

/s/ G. F. Gravatt



W47-5

V. A group of Washington, D.C. employees, photographed September 6, 1944,
by Wilfred Mead in front of U.S. Dept. Agr., Washington, D.C.
1, Mrs. Norma Hughes Henneberry; 2, Ruth Forbes; 3, Grace Martin; 4, Frances
W. Todd; 5, Mrs. Helen F. Smart; 6, Mrs. Walter T. Swingle; 7, Mrs. F. E. Meloy
8, Miss Jessie M. Allen; 9, P. V. Cardon; 10, Alice Atwood; 11, Dr. E.C. Auchter
12, Dr. A.F. Woods; 13, Bernard Connor; 14, Rex Hunt; 15, Emmett C. Scott; 16,
Magdalene R. Newman; 17, F.E. Meloy; 18, Mrs. Bessie W. Gahr; 19, F. V. Rand
20, J. Marion Skull; 21, Mrs. Harriet Ross Martin



WAT-6

VI. Employees, mostly Arlington Farm workers now at Beltsville, photographed in front of the Soils Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. by Wilfred Mead, September 11, 1944.

1, Edward Johnson; 2, Lewis T. Leonard; 3, S. H. Newcomer; 4, Joseph L. Rhodes; 5, Eugene May, Jr.; 6, E. C. Butterfield; 7, Peter B. Graeff; 8, ~~Sam Johnson~~ James A. Stapperton; 9, Geo. H. Coons; 10, M. R. Smith; 11, Oswald Schreiner; 12, A. T. Myers



WAT-10

VII. A second group of employees on steps of Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photo. by R. L. Taylor Septembr 20, 1944

1, John A. Ferrall; 2, Clara Mae Chaney; 3, Zora E. Cowell; 4, Rose Glaspy; 5, Agnes Quirk; 6, Lillian A. Guernsey; 7, Charlotte Elliott; 8, ~~Edith A.~~ Cash; 9, Hugh E. Clark; 10, Eben H. Toole; 11, Byron C. Brunstetter; 12, Howard A. Edson; 13, Theodore P. Dykstra; 14, Walter T. Swingle; 15, S. F. Blake; 16, Frank Smith.

Washington, D. C.,
September 9, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Mr. Clarence Reed has brought to those of us who are here at Washington (or should I say at Beltsville?) very pleasant reports of your splendid physical condition and excellent spirits. What more could one want? It is apparent you have enjoyed the years of your retirement to the fullest in the old home territory. I hope I may do as well. I am retiring this winter myself after 41 years continuous service in the Department of Agriculture. They have been 41 very pleasant years and I have enjoyed every one of them. I have no regrets of long service.

What I will do on the retired list I do not know. I will find something to occupy my time. I expect to remain in Washington, where I have a lot of friends. I am certain to get a lot of enjoyment out of them.

My health is as good as it has ever been and I would be able to continue research for several years, but age has fixed the date of retirement. I am glad to be free from now on to do just as I please.

Very sincerely yours,

(L. L. Harter)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

A few days ago Mr. Reed showed me a recent snapshot of you and your immediate family, which forcibly recalled the days when you were here guiding us all so well and so smoothly in the research program of the Bureau. Looking back in perspective, the conditions under which we worked during that long, fruitful period seem to have been extremely simple. In the later years the great expansion in organization and functions of the Department incessantly has brought complexities to all and it has required real effort to keep pace with the changes that develop rapidly and seemingly in almost every direction.

In the interval, the ranks of the older group of workers inevitably have been greatly depleted, with only a very few now remaining on duty. The photograph suggests that all the while the passing years have dealt kindly with you. With congratulations and the wish that you may continue for many years to enjoy health and all the better things of life,

Sincerely,

(W. W. Garner)

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

JOHN A. HANNAH

October 26, 1944

Dr. William Taylor
30 Berkley Place
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Taylor:

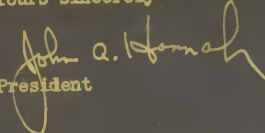
It is a very great pleasure for me officially to extend greetings on behalf of your Alma Mater on this occasion.

Michigan State College has watched your work since you graduated in 1888 with great pleasure and satisfaction. Your many contributions through your work at the Bureau of Plant Industry have been of great value to America's agriculture.

A college or university is quite properly judged by the accomplishments of its former students. You have brought great credit to M.S.C.

On this occasion when your legion of friends are presenting to you these mementoes of recognition, I am most happy to be able in this slight way to convey to you this expression of warm regard from our Alma Mater.

Yours sincerely


President



WAT 12 a (Brown)

VIII. A group of employees of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, on steps of the South Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by P. S. Brown, September 28, 1944.

1, J.E. Taylor; 2, P.S. Browne; 3, W.O. Baldwin; 4, J.L. Mehoney; 5, E.W. Brandes
6, F.A. Abegg; 7, C.S. Connelly; 8, J.I. Lauritzen; 9, Dewey Stewart; 10, W.G. Whaley
11, H.A. Kuyper; 12, G.B. Sartoris; 13, L.G. Pelhamus; 14, L.M. Beach; 15, V.V. Griffin
16, R.D. Rands; 17, E.I. Anthony; 18, E.H. Machmer; 19, L.E. Malbranc; 20, L.P. Owings
21, H.A. McElroy; 22, B.L. Synovec; 23, G.M. Lusk; 24, S.F. Sherwood; 25, K.M. Buck
26, J.E. Kotila; 27, P.E. Truslow; 28, L. Morgan; 29, N.K. Shifflette; 30, A.W. Bedard
31, M.F. Price; 32, L.G. Etheridge; 33, R.C. McGuire; 34, E. M. Quirk



WAT 12-6 (Brown)

IX. A smaller group of Division of Sugar Plant Investigations.

1, L.M. Babb; 2, E. E. Sartoris; 3, J.E. Taylor; 5, J. L. Mahoney; 6, R. D. Rands
 7, C.S. Connolly; 8, F.A. Ebeeg; 9, Dewey Stewart; 10, J.I. Lauritzen; 11, H.A. Kuyper
 12, G.A. Green; 13, N.K. Shifflette; 14, L.G. Polhamus; 15, E. W. Brandes; 16, S.F.
 Sherwood; 17, R.O. McGuire; 18, J. E. Kotila; 19, Ellen M. Quirk.

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I'm very glad to have a chance to add a note to those the rest of the old-timers are preparing. Coming in to the Bureau at the age of 21, I was for so long a time younger than most of the other people that I was slow to realize that I had become one of the old fellows, but signs are multiplying that such must be my classification.

The education I got from Dr. Metcalf, and from you after I began to have contacts with you about 1917, equalled everything I had had in college. I recall my continued amazement at the number of things you told me about the past work of our Division, that I hadn't known. The one time I turned the tables on you will never be forgotten, because it was the only time I was ever able to do it, and that was on the exceedingly minor point that we had precedent in an old BPI Bulletin for using the name "red gum" for Liquidambar instead of for Eucalyptus. Your tolerance of our shortcomings and the studied fairness of all your decisions made a tremendous impression on me, as had previously the same qualities in Metcalf, to whose soul be Peace!

Forest Pathology goes along smoothly under Lee Hutchins, who has won the confidence of the Forest Service and all of our other cooperators. His coming into our field has strengthened us a lot on the previously almost ignored virus side of forest tree diseases, and we are all delighted to have profited from the loss his departure meant to horticulture. Pathology of forest products has taken the front page for the duration, but we're already planning to step up or at least restore tree disease work as the pressure on war application begins to relax.

I much enjoyed our sidewalk meeting at Columbus some time back, and would much appreciate a chance for a longer conversation some time.

Very sincerely,

/s/ Carl Hartley

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a pleasure indeed to know that the joy of living where there is so much to interest you has not caused you to forget your former colleagues or to lose interest in the work they are doing.

I am still engaged in assembling data regarding foreign plant diseases, in some cases following much of the outlines discussed with you and Dr. Kellerman in 1926-27.

The keen, kindly, unselfish and unhurried consideration you always gave to the quarantine problems discussed with you, after I transferred from the Bureau of Plant Industry, left a lasting and pleasant impression.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(N. Rex Hunt)

Cabin John, Md., September 3, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a pleasure to join several of my former colleagues in extending to you our sincere greetings and best wishes. May the years of your retirement continue to be among the happiest years of your long and fruitful life.

During my 30 years' connection with the then Bureau of Plant Industry, none gave me greater happiness and satisfaction than did those of the Taylor-Kellerman administration of the activities and the destiny of that Bureau. I like to think of those years as the Golden Age of its accomplishment. I shall long remember my ever happy and always helpful association with such men as Metcalf, Orton, Waite, Brooks, Griffiths, and many others who received encouragement, counsel, and never-failing inspiration from Dr. William A. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

With warmest regards and best wishes, I am, Sincerely yours,

(Harry B. Humphrey)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It was a pleasure indeed to have news of you and your family from Clarence Reed. The photographs are excellent.

Enroute to Washington from the West, in mid-July, I spent a few days in Ganges and hoped to call on you and Mrs. Taylor at Lake Ridge Farm, but I learned you were still in Ohio.

The years have been many since the day in July 1913, when, fresh from college, I reported at your office in the West Wing for duty as student assistant to George W. Oliver. The experience there, the years in Dr. Waite's office, and succeeding assignments have offered the best of opportunities. I am glad that I stayed with this Bureau, the development and destinies of which you guided so effectively during a long and highly constructive period. The memory of those years remain fresh in the minds of all who were associated with the Bureau's work. Our best wishes go with you for many more years of health and happiness.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Lee M. Hutchins



WAT-13

X. A group of employees, mostly from Soil Survey, on steps of North Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photo by R. L. Taylor Sept 20, 1944

1, Williamson Hearn; 2, O. C. Rogers; 3, J. Kenneth Ableiter; 4, Thornton O. Crown
 5, Mary Oseriack; 6, Mildred Stone; 7, Mrs. Emelia A. Leahy; 8, Mrs. Mabel Yates
 9, Mrs. Marriett Potter; 10, Carlton P. Barnes; 11, Cornelia D. Niles; 12, Edith
 DeLaive; 13, Chester Soderberg; 14, Mrs. Margaret McGregor; 15, Mrs. Glenda
 Younkin; 16, Henry K. Sweeney; 17, Charles E. Kellogg; 18, Walter H. Lyford;
 19, Bessie Lee; 20, Mrs. Marjorie B. Morgan; 21, Joseph W. McKericher; 22, Leo
 Olive; 23, Mrs. L.E. Kutz; 24, Charles S. Simmons; 25, Janice Huffman; 26, Roy
 Smallwood; 27, Nellita L. Kellinger; 28, Peggy McCormick; 29, Mrs. Frances
 Sargent; 30, Mrs. Carolyn Green; 31, Curtis May; 32, Harry Jones; 33, Audrey Holst
 34, Mrs. Lora Raspberry; 35, Lucy Whitacre; 36, Mrs. Lucile C. Miller; 37, Pearl
 Lingenfelter; 38, Mary Morris; 39, Clare Shinle; 40, Geraldine W. Brown
 41, Mrs. Eleanor Russell; 42, Mrs. Enid Larsen; 43, Mrs. Bessie E. Clay; 44, Mrs.
 Mary Preis; 45, Isabel Jones; 46, Florence E. Sheperd; 47, Joy Wilson; 48, Mary
 E. Berry; 49, Helen R. Dixon; 50, Lena Fletcher; 51, Agnes M. Ellis; 52, Mrs.
 Rachel Rogers; 53, Angela Bergling; 54, Mrs. Lorraine L. Blacker; 55, Mrs.
 Frances H. Howard



WAT-15

XI. Group of employees in front of West Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by Wilfred Mead, September 26, 1944.

1, Andy Weinbrenner; 2, C. W. Culpepper; 3, L. S. Mudd; 4, J. R. Christie; 5, Walter Edwards; 6, B. Y. Morrison; 7, J. S. Caldwell; 8, F. L. Mulford; 9, A. C. Foster; 10, Mrs. Marian H. Harvey; 11, M. S. Lowman; 12, L. C. Gillette; 13, A. F. Sievers; 14, Mrs. Catherine Crouch; 15, Mrs. F. E. Albin; 16, James Kelly; 17, Civella Chambliss; 18, R. E. Wester; 19, Martha Wooten; 20, Mrs. Dorothy Harwood; 21, Bailey E. Brown; 22, G. Steiner.

Beltsville, Station
July 27, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I came out here to see Mr. Reed and he showed me two pictures of you. He told me about seeing you recently in Ohio. I have often thought of you since you left Washington and I wish to take this opportunity of sending you my very best regards and wishes.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ George S. Jamieson

Hello---Dr. Taylor. C. W. Dawson

Its good to see your picture and to know you are well. I am well as ever and still doing photostat work.

/s/ James H. Thomas

Beltsville, Md., Sept. 15, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I often look back with pleasure to the days when you were in charge. I am sure that all of your former employees feel the same way. With best wishes for your good health and happiness, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Edward Johnson)

Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland
August 24, 1944

Dear Doctor Taylor,

What could be more like our colleague Clarence Reed than immediately to share with us his recent unique pleasure -- a visit with you and your family. His thoughtfulness is carried still further by his bringing us a photograph of you three, all looking so well and happy. But why we should have waited for a suggestion from Clarence for the joy of sending a word of greeting to you, I do not know!

I cannot begin to tell you how many questions come up all the time that I would like to discuss with you, and who else could give the background that you could? I well remember how you called me to your office at the time I was confronted with the identification of the type of scab affecting the Bahia Navel orange in Brazil and told me in your inimitable way of the history of the Washington Navel orange.

By the way, not long ago in a conversation with Mr. J. Wise Byrnes I asked him what became of the historic Washington Navel tree that was so carefully cared for in our greenhouses in Washington. The tree was carefully moved to Beltsville, he said, but in its new environment soon succumbed. "I carried the trunk to the head-house office," he said, "and of a branch made myself a cane."

This year in connection with my mycological researches I have had occasion to learn what I could of early violet culture. In this connection in late spring I called on Mr. & Mrs. David Bissett in their interesting home at Garrett Park. Mr. Bissett, with his blue eyes shining, expressed his love for the scientists with whom he worked in the Bureau of Plant Industry. A bronchial cold dragged him down terribly last winter, but he was better when I saw him and had managed to start a garden. This contained interesting kinds of tomatoes all beautifully planted and cared for. I am sure that if he were here he would be joining us in sending the heartiest of greetings to you.

Only last month I had the great pleasure of a visit with Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey at Ithaca. I took the opportunity, then, to tell Dr. Bailey that he had been a great inspiration to me ever since my first year of college at Cornell. And now may I tell you that you also have been a source of inspiration to me.

If I attend the Cleveland Meetings and you are there, I hope to have an opportunity to ask you not over 100 questions about this and that!

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Anna E. Jenkins



WAT-16

XII. A group of Cereals Investigations employees on steps of South Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photo. by R. L. Taylor Sept 26, 1944

1, Herbert L. Wilkins; 2, R. K. Zuck; 3, P. B. Marsh; 4, S. W. Griffin; 5, Mary D. Dutler; 6, Lois Kessler; 7, Mrs. Verna M. Donovan; 8, Mrs. Regina M. Hughes; 9, Alice L. Roberts; 10, Mrs. Peggy P. Pond; 11, Eloise K. Johnson; 12, Mrs. Alice M. Baker; 13, William H. Stewart; 14, Mrs. Elba L. Ney; 15, Mrs. Flora L. Hooten; 16, Miss Katherina Bollenbocher; 17, Mrs. Louise M. Davis; 18, Mrs. Marian V. Smith; 19, Claire S. Whitman; 20, Mrs. Blanche Gotthardt; 21, Janet Wiseman; 22, Mrs. Eva Vasvery; 23, Ethel L. Moore; 24, Jane V. Wenzel; 25, Mary H. Hirakawa; 26, Wilma Jean Lett; 27, Mary Elizabeth Taylor



WAT-18

XIII. A group of employees on steps of South Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. September 27, 1944. Photographed by P. S. Brown.

1, Grace B. Roskelly; 2, Elizabeth C. Lambert; 3, Helen L. Smith; 4, O. S. Aamodt
 5, W. W. Garner; 6, J. E. McMurtrey; 7, T. Ray Stanton; 8, Mrs. Lena B. Wallace
 9, R. A. Steinberg; 10, W. J. Morse; 11, Roland McKee; 12, E. A. Hollowell; 13, Albina
 F. Musil; 14, M. C. Goldsworthy; 15, L. W. Kephart; 16, J. Allen Clark; 17, H. W.
 Johnson; 18, A. G. Johnson; 19, A. E. Longley; 20, R. W. Leukel; 21, Mrs. Anna Mae
 Karrer; 22, P. L. Ricker; 23, W. S. Becker; 24, C. W. Bacon; 25, J. P. Bourke, Jr.
 26, Merritt N. Pope; 27, W. P. O'Connor; 28, C. E. Lunsford; 29, Rudolph DeGlantz
 30, F. A. Coffman; 31, C. F. Heasty; 32, John D. Bowling; 33, B. B. Bayless;
 34, G. A. Wiebe; 35, M. A. Hein; 36, Hugh S. Smith.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and
Agricultural Engineering

Division of
Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases

Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I should be amazed at your wonderful memory if my name meant anything to you; but Mr. Reed assures me that you knew everybody in the Bureau and that you DO have a wonderful memory--so I take the liberty of adding my greetings.

In the West Wing and for six months in the South Building I worked for Doctor Waite. Then in January 1935, when he reached retirement age and the rest of us in the research end of the Division were sent to Beltsville, I continued working for the fruit pathologists, Dr. Roberts and Mr. Demaree. Later I was transferred to work for Dr. Magness, and when he was made head of the Division, I stayed on with his successor, Dr. Cullinan; and when he went up to the Chief's Office I still stayed on to work for Dr. Aldrich, now in charge of the fruit production work, but working on pears at Medford, Oregon, when you were in Washington. In the interim he worked on dates and citrus in Indio and Riverside, coming here about the first of January, 1943.

We have an imposing-looking institution out here now, and everybody here would like to have you see it. It is so far out here (especially for us Virginians) that comparatively few try to come regularly by public conveyance (though the Greyhound buses do come into the grounds and stop at the entrance to the administration building); but most of us arrange to come somehow by automobile, so the trip, while long in miles, is also long on comfort, in a region where most workers stand in crowded cars and buses.

This is a fine fruit year and many of us are picking up again the habits of thrift we dropped after the last war. We are grateful for a chance to go back to canning and jelly making and save ration points.

We have a beautiful auditorium, and in it we recently organized a Welfare Association on the lines of the one in Washington. Although, with an 8-hour day plus daylight-saving time, we drive out here in the moonlight, in winter, and see the sunrise from our office windows at 8, we have plenty of daylight at the end of even the shortest day; and under the auspices of the Welfare Association I think that eventually different athletic and social and cultural groups will be formed among the employees.

Dr. Waite and Shear come out often, and Mr. Gould once or twice a week. I see Miss Spraker and Mr. Allanson occasionally, and they seem just like they always were. Billy Taylor is enjoying life at his new home at Colonial Beach.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ (Mrs. May R. Jenkins

September 8, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Thanks to the kindness of Clarence A. Reed, the nut specialist, I have learned that in Beltsville (my office is in the South Building at Washington, D. C.) there is a movement on foot among the scientists and other employees of the former Bureau of Plant Industry to express appreciation and good will to you as Chief of that Bureau. Naturally enough, I am quite anxious to join them. There are good and sufficient reasons for that movement. You discharged the requirements of that Bureau with enviable skill, having been its Chief for more than two decades and, indeed, for a quarter of a century, if your previous years as Assistant or Acting Chief of Bureau are added. The very fact that you have been Bureau Chief for such an extraordinary long period is proof, if any were needed, that you possessed rare qualifications. It was your natural wisdom and sagacity, brilliantly coupled with ability and tact that enabled you to handle the personnel as well as the policies of the Bureau as a whole with unique expertness. All that used to be reflected partly in your brief, but concise and businesslike memoranda. Those capacities had endowed you also with the faculty successfully to deal with the Agricultural Appropriation Committees of Congress and promptly to secure the appropriations you deemed necessary for the various Divisions and Offices of the Bureau.

Nor is this all. A graduate of the Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, you induced also your children and grandchildren to obtain their higher education in the same college. This is a splendid family tradition. In accordance with this tradition you used to act also as Dean of the Michigan State College and actively to assist the College President whenever he happened to come to Washington for the purpose of giving his reports on the status of the College. No wonder, then, that you had very little time, if any, left for writing many technical or scientific papers. But when you did publish such articles, they certainly were worth careful reading, minute inspection, and close scrutiny.

I understand that your youngest son, 18 years old, is ready to join the armed forces and thus serve his country. The best of luck to him!

From the bottom of my heart I wish you and Mrs. Taylor good luck and happiness for many years to come, in which wish Mrs. Jodidi joins me.

Yours respectfully,

(Samuel L. Jodidi)



W47-17

XIV

A group of employees in front of the Soils Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. October 2, 1944. Photographed by Robert L. Taylor

1, George Caldwell, Jr.; 2, Edward Johnson; 3, Arnold J. MacKenzie;
 4, Catherine B. Scott; 5, Catherine L. Johnson; 6, Mildred S. Drain;
 7, Petrina J. May; 8, Marjorie L. Smith; 9, Lydia Moseley; 10, Loraine
 W. Klipp; 11, Louise Carus; 12, Virginia T. Dawson; 13, Margaret L.
 Lambert; 14, June E. Schmick; 15, Isabella W. Steele; 16, Chesley F.
 Simpson; 17, Reuben M. Pinckney; 18, Jane H. Cole; 19, William L. Hill
 20, Paul N. Tierney; 21, Edward J. Rubins; 22, V. Les esse Gaddy
 23, Paul E. Hubanks; 24, Hilda M. Wallace; 25, Elizabeth A. Luber;
 26, Frederick H. McKenzie; 27, Eugene T. Holt; 28, Glen Edgington
 29, Irvin C. Brown; 30, Philip L. Gile; 31, Frank O. Lundstrom;
 32, Louis A. Pinck; 33, J. Richard Adams; 34, Alfred T. Myers; 35,
 William L. Edwards; 36, John O. Hardesty; 37, Frederick G. Settle;
 38, O. Clinton Davis; 39, Leonardo Testa; 40, Lewis F. Rader, Jr.
 41, William V. Bartholomew; 42, Walter E. Armiger; 43, Sterling B.
 Hendricks; 44, Kenneth D. Jacob; 45, Ernest J. Jones; 46, Marion L.
 Garrison; 47, Robert Q. Parks; 48, Joseph F. Mullins; 49, William H.
 Ross; 50, Myron S. Anderson; 51, Frederick N. Ward; 52, Royall O. E.
 Davis; 53, Frank W. Parker; 54, Franklin E. Allison; 55, Byron T. Shaw
 56, Arnon L. Mehrling; 57, Sidney Gottlieb; 58, Elizabeth B. Murdock
 59, Mildred S. Sherman; 60, Colin W. Whittaker; 61, Eleanor Hall;
 62, Mary G. Keyes; 63, Fidelia D. Davol; 64, Elias S. Shipley;
 65, Edwin F. Miles; 66, Constance Sherry; 67, Jew Yam Yee; 68, Nathan
 R. Smith; 69, Dumond S. Reynolds



WAT-20

XV. A group of employees on the steps of the Administrative Building,
Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, October 17, 1944.
Photographed by Robert L. Taylor

1, Elma Dove; 2, Dorothy Plant; 3, Elisabeth W. Brown; 4, Virginia Webb
5, Elizabeth Bracey; 6, Betty Vollmerhausen; 7, Wanda McEwen; 8, Lillian Wilson
9, Janice S. Brown; 10, La Verne Barnes; 11, Margaret J. Heneghan; 12, Howard
Zahniser; 13, Albert R. Moseman; 14, Mary Louise Reiff; 15, Mildred Donovan
16, Dolores Sullivan; 17, Helen Hopwood; 18, A. Leon Havis; 19, Raymond E.
Casses; 20, L. P. Batjer; 21, Harry T. Edwards; 22, Dorothy Neff; 23, Marjorie
B. Katzenberger.

Dear Doctor Taylor:

Until I saw the picture of the Taylor family with Billy standing between you and Mrs. Taylor and towering above you both, I had not realized how much time had elapsed since you were our Chief. I still can see Billy sliding up and down the hall in the West Wing, waiting for you to "call it a day."

There have been many changes since then, but many of the old guard are still around who, like myself, remember pleasantly the good old days when you were Chief of Bureau and Dr. Kellerman Associate. However, it is nice to be here at the new Station and I feel that I am fortunate in having had the opportunity. I wish that you and the family might visit us here sometime.

I am glad to hear through Mr. Reed that you are all enjoying good health (this is evident from the photograph). May time continue to deal kindly with you. My very best wishes to you and the family,

Sincerely,

(Helena C. Spraker)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I was much pleased indeed to see the fine picture of the "Taylor family" at 30 Berkley Place, taken by Mr. C. A. Reed when he visited you in July. We are more than delighted to see you all looking so well. Certainly Billy is a fine young man now, quite different from when I last saw him. He apparently is about the same height as our younger boy (now 20), who is now in the Army service at Camp Blanding, Florida.

As I think back, it was just about an even 40 years ago when I had the pleasure of hearing your address the "Shaw's Garden" banquet at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis. I think that was in the fall of 1904. I was then with Dr. Trelease at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It was not until about 1919 or 1920 when I had become a part-time employee of the Bureau with headquarters at Madison, Wis. with Professor L. R. Jones that I really got to know you. Then in 1922, when we moved to Washington and subsequently I got to know you better.

Throughout the years I have always had the highest admiration for your clearness of vision and soundness of judgement, together with unflinching fairness and kindness in dealing with individuals. It is indeed a very real pleasure to convey these sentiments to you and to wish for you and your family many years of continued happiness.

Sincerely

(A. G. Johnson)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a great pleasure to offer my hearty congratulations on your 81st birthday, and to wish you continued good health and happiness.

I entered the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations in 1923, and since that time I have been engaged on work with sugarcane. In 1929 I was given charge of the sugarcane breeding. This work has been interesting and successful, but I am still looking forward to the breeding of even better varieties.

Sincerely,

(G. B. Sartoris)

MAHOGANY ASSOCIATION, INC.

75 East Wacker Drive . Chicago 1
Telephone Central 8835

August 23, 1944

George N. Lamb, Secretary

Washington 4, D. C., Office
914 National Press Building
Telephone: Metropolitan 1464

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I had a visit with Clarence Reed yesterday and he showed me a picture that he had taken of you out at your home. I remembered you well although it has been many years since I saw you. Way back before the last war I was in the Forest Service and used to see you occasionally. It was good to know that you are hale and hearty after all these years.

Clarence also reminded me that John Roberts was out at Beltsville. John is a few years older than I am, but we were boys together and his father and my father were boyhood chums. I hope to get out to see him in the near future.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of the Mahogany Book, which will give you an idea of what I have been doing since I left the Forest Service many years ago. I am also sending you a copy of a personal circular letter that I sent out this month which may also be of interest.

I recall very vividly the high esteem we in the Forest Service had for you and your department. Therefore, I am happy to take this occasion to send you greetings and all good wishes.

Sincerely,

/s/ George N. Lamb



WAT-19

XVI

Group photographed in front of "head house" of Plant Industry Greenhouses, Beltsville, Md., September 30, 1944.

1, W. E. Frenzell; 2, R. Berry; 3, R. L. Reed; 4, H. H. McKinney
 5, R. W. Leukel; 6, H. A. Rodenhiser; 7, B. J. Lay; 8, C. L. Lefebvre
 9, H. L. Hyland; 10, D. D. Fairfax; 11, H. L. Marshall;
 12, A. M. Karrer; 13, W. M. Stuart, Jr.; 14, G. H. Palmer
 15, G. M. Jones; 16, H. S. Sherwin; 17, L. W. Grisham;
 18, R. C. Fairfax; 19, E. Williams; 20, W. J. Sando; and
 21, J. M. Bonner.



WAT-21

XVII

Group of employees photographed October 3, 1944 on steps of south wing, Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. by Wilfred Mead.

1, Mildred L. Curtis; 2, M. Georgia Gale; 3, Edna M. Barlowe;
4, Doris J. Rorabacher; 5, Hermine Newberry; 6, Margaret Hall
7, A. E. Inglehart; 8, Viola Ziepol; 9, Dolores H. Strohmler
10, Blanche D. Brown; 11, Thelma O. Washington; 12, Catherine
R. Neher; 13, Laura E. Dubree; 14, Alice F. Cogar; 15, Ida F. Hines
16, Irene May Orian; 17, Louise L. Mathers; 18, Carrie L. Brandon
19, William D. Donahoe; 20, James E. Gateley; 21, C. Gerad Clukey;
22, Robert F. Chretien; 23, William F. Johnson; 24, Charles Carter

To Dr. Wm. A. Taylor

I am pleased to send my greetings to you and Mrs. Taylor. Despite the years that have passed since you retired and the hectic days we are experiencing, I often think of you to wish you well and many more happy years of life.

There have been many changes since you retired - four Bureau chiefs, a brand new home here at Beltsville. Many of the "Old Guard" have passed along. Some of us who then considered ourselves of the younger set now find ourselves among the "elder statesmen."

I am still in charge of the Division of Dry Land Agriculture, which, as you well know, operates principally in the Great Plains. This region has come back with a bang since the calamitous days of the Dust Bowl, as the millions of bushels of wheat piled on the ground following the last three harvests, for lack of storage space, incontrovertibly testify. Farmers and stockmen claim their income taxes have more than repaid all Governmental relief expenditures. What food restrictions might not have been necessary during these war years had it not been for this "miracle of the Plains"!

It is a satisfaction to know that the researches of the Bureau of Plant Industry, conducted over the years, have contributed in no small way to stabilizing production and increasing yields in this region.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ C. E. Leighty

Dear Dr. Taylor:

September 9, 1944

It was indeed a pleasure to see the pictures of you, your wife and son which Mr. C. A. Reed made and kindly showed to us. It brought back memories of the Bureau when it was not like it is now. You will probably recall that sometime after 1904 the undersigned was seen occasionally around 1306 B St SW and later in the West Wing; but since you left he has been located in the South Building, Beltsville Research Center, and now the Plant Industry Station. Starting with Dr. Geo. T. Moore, chiefs have come and gone and now what was once the Division of Soil Bacteriology and Plant Nutrition is a small unit in the Division of Soil and Fertilizer Investigations. Kindly remember me to Mrs. Taylor, and accept for yourself and family my best wishes for the future.

Yours very truly,

(Leslie T. Leonard)

September 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is singularly appropriate that I send you this greeting today, for it was exactly 31 years ago today--on my first official day in the Bureau--that I was introduced to you by Prof. Spillman, in the little eating place near the Department where we were having lunch. Doubtless there are scores of others who remember clearly their first meeting with Dr. Taylor.

That day I was also introduced to Weeds--and after many years and various interludes, I am back in Weeds. To many that would seem a dry subject, but it is not to me, and would not be, I am sure, to you, for it is really a challenge of the kind that the Bureau has always enjoyed.

Please accept these felicitations from one who is at least a semi-old timer.

Sincerely,

(L. J. Kephart)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a real pleasure to have the opportunity to add my wishes for your continued health and happiness to those of so many others. If you remember me, it will be as one of a group of field men in Dry Land Agriculture who frequently wintered in the basement of the West Wing. Our conduct there during moments of relaxation was not always subdued, and I can still remember one occasion when Dr. Briggs quieted our youthful enthusiasm with a few well chosen words. But we got a considerable amount of work done, learned a little, became acquainted with men in other Divisions, and came to recognize the more important men in the Department (you among them) by sight as well as by reputation. I still appreciate the Bureau policy that gave us this chance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ O. R. Mathews

September 5, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Just a line of greeting from one who appreciates having known you as a friend for a number of years while working in the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Those years are remembered as the most pleasant of my life, and I feel that your friendship and sympathy from November 1906 (the time I entered the Bureau) until your retirement had much to do with smoothing out difficulties as they arose and made official adjustments a pleasant task. My best wishes are with both you and Mrs. Taylor in everything you do.

Sincerely,

(F. E. Meloy)



WAT-22

XVIII

A group of Agricultural Engineering workers on the steps of their building at the Agricultural Research Center, two miles up the road from the Plant Industry Station. Photographed October 7, 1944 by Wilfred Mead

- 1, Margaret L. Mustad; 2, Marie S. Koepfle; 3, Zelda L. Martin
- 4, Vivian E. Broadbelt; 5, Mrs. Dorothy H. Pack; 6, Mrs. O.P. Summers
- 7, Mabel L. Kelley; 8, Mrs. Louise E. Henderson; 9, E. Helen Freaner
- 10, Mrs. Dolores M. Frazier; 11, Dolores E. Baxter; 12, Ethel Whitehead
- 13, Mary R. Slayton; 14, Walter C. Hulburt; 15, Dale B. Eldred
- 16, Colburn Fifield; 17, Elmer E. Doolan; 18, Leonard G. Schoenleber
- 19, Wallace Ashley; 20, Glen A. Cummins; 21, Charles E. Taylor
- 22, Roy B. Gray; 23, George R. Boyd; 24, Alvin J. Pinckney
- 25, Jesse L. Harrison; 26, George Edick



Wat-23

XIX. A group of employees on the steps of the Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. September 11, 1944. Photographed by Wilfred Mead of the Bureau's Division of Information.

- 1, Adelaide E. Arrington; 2, Clemmie N. Shirley; 3, Jeannie Olive
- 4, Kathryn McDonald; 5, Marjorie Perdue; 6, DeWitt C. Tyler
- 7, Abbie B. Brooks; 8, Esta Mae Nelson; 9, Henry D. Barber;
- 10, Martina A. Donaldson; 11, Clarence M. Beatty; 12, Bertha M. Meyer
- 13, Herschel H. Johnson; 14, Myrtle Resnick; 15, John T. Mitchell
- 16, June F. Reed; 17, Otis A. Pope; 18, Edward H. Killen;
- 19, Ann Mikell; 20, Joshua Skinner; 21, Earl E. Berkeley;
- 22, Nellie G. Bulger; 23, Mary Barber; 24, Louise G. Lutton;
- 25, Mary F. Dodley; 26, LaNeta F. Phelps; 27, Mary F. Holmead;
- 28, Pauline Fitzpatrick; 29, Erma Dasher; 30, Helen Black;
- 31, Jean E. Dorset; 32, Ruth Bowman; 33, Florence DeChesek
- 34, Ruth P. Newman; 35, Margaret Reese; 36, Dorothy Brown
- 37, Betty Ginn; 38, Dorothy R. Larson; 39, Charlotte B. Hunt
- 40, Lorraine L. Ward; 41, Maxine French; 42, Rita Holmes
- 43, T. Aline Peterson; 44, Agnes L. Espey; 45, Beatrice C. Jernberg
- 46, Mary A. Barbe; 47, Ruth Mitchell; 48, Beulah M. Eppling
- 49, Irene S. Jones; 50, R. M. Salter; 51, Helen L. Woodward
- 52, Mary M. Simon; 53, Doris G. Donohue; 54, Florence Kae Strouth
- 55, Virginia Smith; 56, Marty T. Lowe; 57, Myrna E. Green
- 58, Ruth E. Clarke; 59, Mildred M. Rugg; 60, Dorothea Barrett

Takoma Park, D. C.
December 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

May I join with your many other friends in Washington in congratulating you on this happy occasion and in wishing you many more years of usefulness.

Many times when attending with other members of the Bureau of Chemistry or the Food and Drug Administration hearings before the Bureau of the Budget and Committees of Congress, I have heard with admiration your crystal clear presentation of the needs financially of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

While we awaited our turn with trepidation, we were encouraged by the calmness and the clearness with which you answered all inquiries and were buoyed up with the hope that we might do as well. That we never did, as is well attested by the relative amounts of money appropriated for our respective fields of activity!

I recall many years ago when Chairman Radsworth asked Dr. Harvey Wiley to define an "Agricultural Expert," he replied: "He is one who can make two dollars grow on an appropriation act where only one dollar grew before."

Judged by that standard, as well as by your outstanding scientific achievements, you qualify as an expert.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Fred B. Linton
(Formerly Assistant to Commissioner
of Food and Drugs.)





WAT-24

XV

A group of employees on steps of north wing, Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. September 16, 1944. Photographed by Wilfred Mead.

- 1, Wilbur D. McClellan; 2, S. L. Emsweller; 3, G. R. Fessenden
- 4, James H. Beattis; 5, Leaton J. Kushman; 6, Vera K. Charles
- 7, Cornelius L. Shear; 8, Cornelius B. Shear; 9, Robert L. Pryor
- 10, Anna Gilkeson.



WAT-25

XXI. A group of Nematology employees in front of greenhouse "headhouse"
Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., September 18, 1944. Photographed
by Wilfred Mead.

1, W. A. Barnes; 2, R. Jones; 3, Jesse R. Christie; 4, Civella Chambliss;
5, Dr. Gotthold Steiner; 6, N. Schlegel; 7, Martha Wooten; 8, H. J. Vincent
9, Edna M. Buhner; 10, C. D. Green; 11, R. B. Herbert



WAT-26 (Group 22)

A group of "New Arlington Farm" employees, photographed at their headquarters on the South Farm, Bureau of Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. by Wilfred Mead, September 23, 1944.

1, James Clark; 2, Daniel H. Wright; 3, Clinton H. Jackson; 4, Joseph L. Rhodes
 5, Everett V. Thompson; 6, Earl C. Butterfield; 7, James A. Stephenson
 8, Peter B. Graeff; 9, Thomas W. Browner; 10, Harry M. A llicock; 11, Gordon Marcy
 12, James C. Brown; 13, Milton O. Roby; 14, Clayton H. Dindlebeck



WAT-30 (Group 23)

A group of employees photographed on the steps of the West Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. by Wilfred Mead, September 23, 1944.

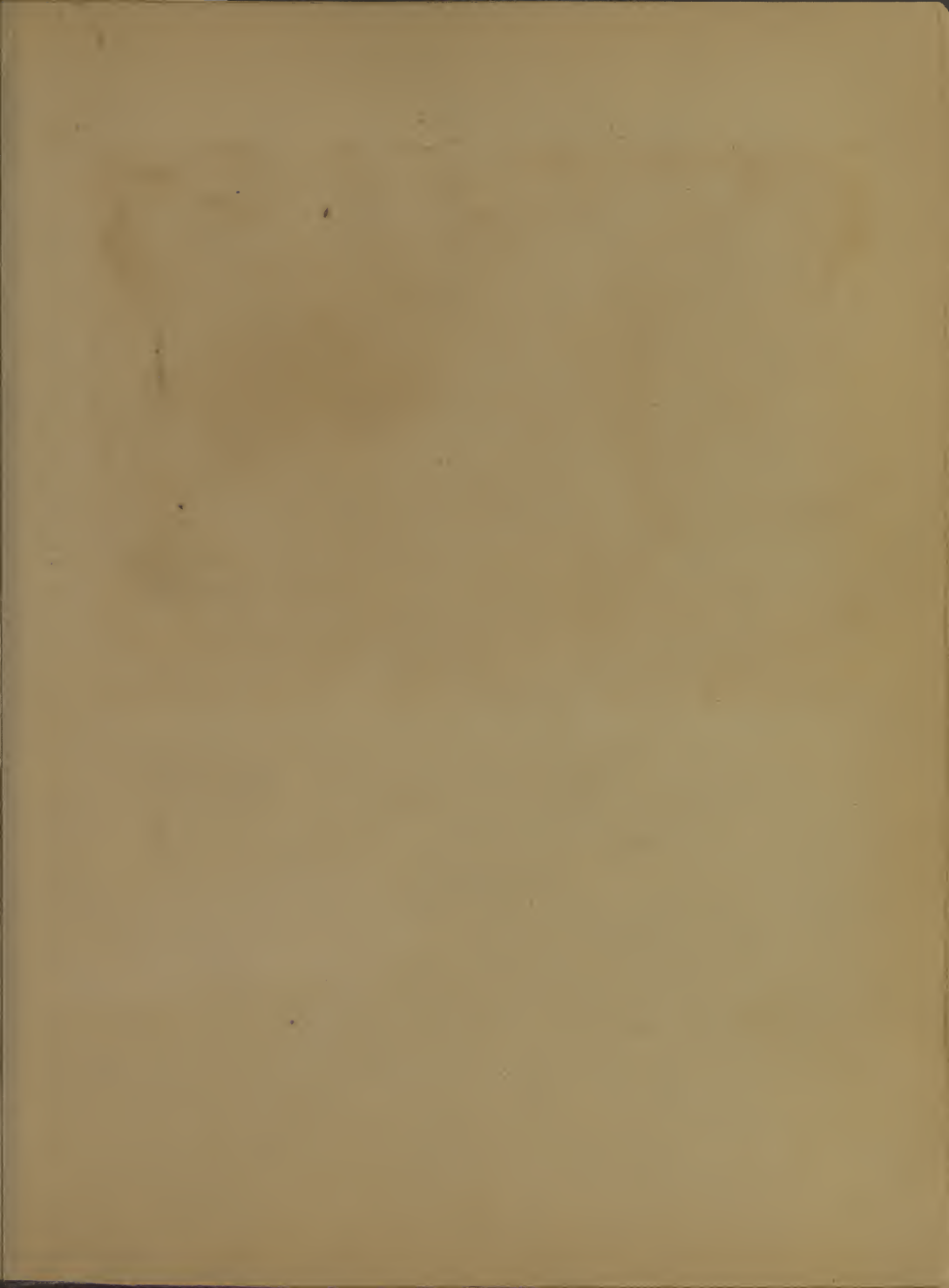
1, E. C. Stevenson; 2, N. J. Scully; 3, *Alfred E. Clarke*; 4, D. W. Crooks
 5, H. A. Jones; 6, H. A. Borthwick; 7, J. W. McKay; 8, Laura Rapplaye; 9, Jimmie Merson
 10, Margaret Toole; 11, Ruth Mitchell; 12, Iva H. Walsh; 13, Doris Benson; 14, Margaret
 Hutchins; 15, Hazel McKay; 16, Ann Berginski.



AT-31 (Group 24)

A group of employees on the steps of the Administrative Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Photographed by Wilfred Nead, October 17, 1944.

1, Mathilda Beckler; 2, Betty Vollmerhausen; 3, Dorothy Bowers; 4, Wanda McDwen
5, Margaret J. Heneghan; 6, La Verne Barnes; 7, Frieda Walker; 8, Betty Werson
9, Samar Lee Doyle; 10, Kathryn G. Dills; 11, Grace Brassor; 12, Hilda Burrell
13, Charles E. Garen; 14, Betty Whitman; 15, Marion Parker; 16, W. J. Zaunmeyer
17, E. T. Bergman; 18, Otto Meyers; 19, Philip Burrell; 20, E. C. Schultz





WAT-7

Barberry Eradication Conference, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C., March 24, 1926.

- 1, Mrs. Marie S. Koepfle; 2, Mrs. Elsie C. Young; 3, A. G. Johnson
- 4, H. S. Smith; 5, M. B. Waite; 6, C. W. Warburton; 7, G. B. Sudworth
- 8, J. E. Graf; 9, R. A. Oakley; 10, K. F. Kellerman; 11, W. M. Jardine
- 12, R. W. Dunlap; 13, W. A. Taylor; 14, C. B. Smith; 15, C. L. Marlatt
- 16, C. R. Ball; 17, Bela Husz; 18, Hugh E. Clark; 19, Mrs. B. W. Gahn
- 20, C. F. Heasty; 21, Mrs. Eva P. LeFever; 22, Miss E. C. Lambert
- 23, N. F. Thompson; 24, W. F. Reddy; 25, E. A. Lungren; 26, W. A. Walker
- 27, M. A. Smith; 28, W. E. Leer; 29, F. E. Kempton; 30, H. B. Humphrey
- 31, W. H. Tisdale; 32, H. E. Allanson; 33, E. B. Lambert; 34, L. W. Melander
- 35, E. Y. Morrison; 36, R. O. Bulger; 37, J. J. Christenson; 38, L. D. Hutton
- 39, W. L. Popham; 40, J. W. Baringer; 41, Fred C. Meier; 42, D. G. Fletcher
- 43, E. C. Stakman; 44, G. C. Curran; 45, G. C. Mayoue; 46, A. F. Thiel



WAT-43

A group of associates visit Dr. Taylor in his office to greet him on his 70th birthday:

1, Henry E. Allanson; 2, G. H. Coons; 3, M.A. McCall; 4, W.A. Skuderna
 5, C. E. Leighty; 6, B. T. Galloway; 7, Fred C. Meier; 8, O. F. Cook
 9, Frank L. Goll; 10, K. F. Kellerman; 11, E. N. Brandes; 12, H.P. Gould
 13, E. C. Auchter; 14, Knowles A. Ryerson

August 26, 1944

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I was delighted today to receive from Clarence Reed that very interesting photograph of yourself, your six-foot son, and Mrs. Taylor. It made me very happy to see how well and vigorous and hearty you still look. Although many years have now passed beyond our horizons since you were with us and I had the occasional pleasure of discussing matters with you, you still appear to be about as able, alert, and interested in the agricultural world about you as when you were head of that great organization, the Bureau of Plant Industry.

I wish to extend to you and Mrs. Taylor and your son my sincerest best wishes for continued health and full enjoyment of life. Your numerous friends here would be happy indeed to have you all drop in for a nice visit.

Cordially your friend,

(M. C. Merrill)

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I want to add a postscript to Dr. Merrill's letter, with greetings from one of the former members of the Office of Horticulture, 220 Fourteenth Street, where I served as secretary to Dr. L. C. Corbett from 1922 to 1929. I remember with a great deal of pleasure my associations with you, and always enjoy meeting some of the "old timers" around the Department now, including Dr. Wm. A. Stuart, Mr. W. R. Beattie and Dr. A. F. Woods, and others. Since 1935, I have had the pleasure of working for Doctor Merrill who dictated the above letter to me.

(Norma Hughes Henneberry)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

This is just to send you a friendly greeting and wish you long life accompanied by your share of happiness.

I hope you are reaping some of the rewards for your long and useful service in the Bureau.

Best regards to you and your family

Sincerely

/s/ Alfred T. Myers

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Mr. Clarence A. Reed tells me that on a recent trip through the Middle West he had a very pleasant visit with you, and he suggested that you would be interested in hearing from some of us old timers. I believe I would be considered in that class, as I completed 40 years' service here in the Department July 31, of this year--30 years in the Bureau of Plant Industry and 10 years in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, where I am now serving as business manager for the Division of Plant Disease Control.

The Division consists of two projects, namely: White Pine Blister Rust Control, and Barberry Eradication. If my memory serves me correctly, these were projects in which you were much interested and it was mainly through your efforts that they were developed. Dr. James F. Martin is the Chief of the Division, and under his direction the work programs are well organized and accordingly, splendid results are being obtained.

As mentioned above, I have been around here for quite a while, and under the present retirement law I am eligible for optional retirement, since I became 60 years old last March. I had planned to take advantage of this option in the near future, but as quite often happens, one's plans have to be deferred or changed. We have owned a small farm consisting of 7½ acres near White Oak, Md., approximately 5 miles north of the district line, on which we have, for the last 20 years, made many plantings. We now have (or did have) 26 apple trees (10 varieties) in full bearing, and many other fruits and various ornamental trees and shrubs. It was there we had planned to spend our remaining years, but recently, without advance notice, we received a court order from the Department of Justice informing us that the United States Government had taken over our house and property for use as a naval ordnance laboratory. Under the circumstances, we, of course, will have to change our plans.

Wishing you good health and your share of the good things of life, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(Edwin H. Milstead)



Frederick D. Richey
Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from October 1934 to 1938, when he
resigned to engage in the commercial breeding of hybrid corn.



WAT-44

THE ROW-HOUSE ERA!

In the old days--down to 1910 or later, in fact--many of the units of the Department were quartered in row houses such as these. In this center building (1304-1306 B Street Southwest, Washington, D.C.) were located the offices of Congressional Seed Distribution and Vegetable Physiology and Pathology. To the right is the frame structure in which the Plant Breeding workers were housed. On the left is a two-story and basement house occupied by Dr. Walter T. Swingle's Plant Life History Investigations. Adjoining this house was the similar building occupied by Dr. Taylor's offices and laboratories.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

My good friend Mr. C. A. Reed has just shown me a photo which he recently took of you and your family. It is with much pleasure I write you these few lines of greetings and very best wishes for good health and happiness. You may perhaps, recall I worked for many years (28) with Mr. W. T. Swingle - citrus, dates and other sub-tropical plants I happily recall the trip you authorized (1919) taking me to Japan, China and the Philippine Is. to collect and study citrus and its wild relatives resistant to citrus canker. I am now working at the Beltsville B.P.I. Station as a more or less handy man, aiming to be a good soldier and do my best in these trying times - approx. 43 yrs. service; age 68.

Very sincerely

/s/ Eugene May

October 12, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Not only to bring you my personal greetings and congratulations, but the cordial good wishes of the many persons in our Division whom you knew during our years of happy association, this letter is added to those others from your one-time Bureau.

We may change our official names, alter the rhythms of performance, and vary the seeming direction of our endeavors, but the underlying purpose which you know so well continues.

With every good wish,

Cordially,

(Benjamin Y. Morrison)

Beltsville, Maryland. 11-1-44 .

Dear Dr. Taylor :

"It's occasions of this sort that prove that the Bureau has a soul" is the way F. D. Richey expressed it while he was Bureau Chief and a group of friends met at luncheon to honor Dr. M. B. Waite when he retired in January of 1935.

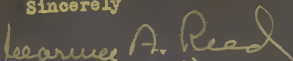
The eager spontaneity with which these more than 100 letters and other tributes to you have come together in 1944 show that there is still not only a soul here but that it is a large one and that insofar as the memory of you is concerned, it is ever growing brighter and more lustrous.

As Jack Farrall has said elsewhere within these covers, it is singular indeed that the mere mention of the name of any man, more than a decade after his departure from the scene, should bring forth a response of this sort.

Seeing the expressions on the faces of several score of those by whom these letters have been written proves to me all over again that just about 100 percent of those who were in the Bureau during your time had the same sense of security in your wisdom, fairness and loyalty to those under you, that I always had from the first that I knew you.

Incidentally, it is due to the skillful art of the photographers and to the editorial and writing talents of Mr. Farrall more than to anything else that the "book" has assumed its present form. We are vain enough to think the whole thing decidedly creditable.

Sincerely


(Clarence A. Reed)



FRANK N. MEYER

one of the first martyrs in the work of plant exploration and introduction. Searching remote places of the world for new plants promising for growing in this country, Meyer lost his life by drowning in the Yangtse river, China. Without heirs, his small estate went toward the creation of the Meyer Medal Award annually to those rendering conspicuous service in the field of plant exploration and introduction.



MEYER MEDAL AWARD IN 1936

Photograph by Robert L. Taylor at Glenn Dale, Md. June 6, 1936, showing award of Meyer Medal for distinguished service to plant introduction to P. H. Dorsett. Those present, reading from left to right, are: Dr. Albert Hassall, O. F. Cook, G. N. Collins, C. S. Scofield, P. H. Dorsett, David Fairchild, T. H. Kearney, and Walter T. Swingle.

October 10, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am writing as the head of one of the Divisions most recently transferred to the Bureau of Plant Industry--The Division of Soil and Fertilizer Investigations. With the expanded Bureau now including soil investigations and the integration of soil and plant research under one administrative unit, greater opportunities are presented for close coordination of work in these closely related fields.

This Division is concerned with Soil and Fertilizer Investigations, and was formed by combining the former Soil Chemistry and Physics, Soil Microbiology and Fertilizer Research and a portion of Soil Fertility. This union permits much greater cooperation and wider latitude of operations, including investigations along highly technical lines as well as on the interrelations of soils, fertilizers and plants, with laboratory, greenhouse and field work supplementing each other.

While we have not had the opportunity to know each other, I know of the fine work done by you in building up the Bureau of Plant Industry to its important position in plant research, and I now feel sure of your pride in its expansion and greater opportunities.

With very best personal wishes to you,

Yours sincerely,

(F. W. Parker)
Head of Division

August 3, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Dr. Edson remembered that I was once in your office, and very kindly gave me the opportunity to send along my very best wishes to you and Mrs. Taylor. I was glad to see the pictures. It seems hard to believe that your son has grown so tall in so short a time.

If it is ever possible we would love to have you all visit us in our new quarters at Beltsville. We like it very much except for the winter time when the snow and sleet comes and the roads are slippery.

It is a real pleasure to think back on the happy days when you were Chief of Bureau. Kinest personal regards to you and Mrs. Taylor.

Sincerely,

(Nellie W. Nance)

September 21, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Many changes have taken place since you left the Department, and we have often missed your wise guidance and friendly advice.

You will probably recall that Blister Rust Control and Barberry Eradication programs had their origin and several years of development under your administration. These programs were transferred to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in 1934, and now comprise the Division of Plant Disease Control. In 1942 the work of this Division was placed in my charge. Both of these projects received large amounts of emergency relief funds prior to the war, and through the use of WPA labor, large strides were made in the eradication of the alternate host plants of these diseases. With the advent of World War II, the projects were returned to a regular fund basis and a "holding" type of program. This left us with a large amount of completed initial eradication and insufficient funds to keep all of the required rework up to date. We have, therefore, lost some ground but hope to make this up and complete the remaining initial work after the war ends.

The Barberry eradication program has progressed to the point where approximately 70 percent of the eradication area, much of it located west of the Mississippi River, is now considered practically free of these bushes. This work combined with the use of resistant varieties developed by plant breeders has reduced grain losses from stem rust during the last 14 years about 50 percent over those for the previous 14-year period. Both barberry eradication and plant breeding have paid good dividends in helping to stabilize grain production and prevent the food shortages that were so evident during World War I.

The initial eradication of Ribes in connection with the blister rust control program has been completed in 78 percent of the control area, and 22 percent of this has been reworked. Effective control of the disease is being obtained in all white pine regions, but considerable work remains particularly in the western white and sugar pine regions, and in the northern part of the Lake States. Much of the white pine area in the Southern Appalachian region has been found relatively free of Ribes, thus permitting rapid progress in establishing control of the rust.

In the Northeastern States it is now difficult to find new blister rust cankers in areas that have been protected by Ribes eradication. Over 2,000,000 board feet of white pine lumber were used during each of the last three years in the war effort. This supply reflects the results of the early control work and the young growth now receiving blister rust protection will provide lumber for the future.

Many of the field and Washington employees formerly with the Bureau of Plant Industry, some of whom you may recall, are still with the Division. Mrs. Esther Hull Barrett is serving as my secretary; Miss Beatrice McCormick is secretary to the Assistant Chief of the Division; and Mrs. Helen Forbes is assisting Mr. Edward Milstead, who takes care of our business affairs. Mr. W. L. Popham, who was associated with the Barberry Eradication work in BPI is now Assistant Chief of the Bureau, in charge of control operations. Mr. Detwiler and Mr. Posey, formerly with Blister Rust Control, are with Soil Conservation Service.

Sincerely yours,

(James F. Martin)



Dr. E. C. Auchter

Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from 1938 to 1942, when he was drafted
to become the first ~~Director~~ of the Agricultural Research Administration.

Administrator

October 2, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

When Mr. Reed dropped in the other day with a photograph taken last Summer of Mrs. Taylor, Billy and yourself, it recalled to my mind again the many pleasant years during which I worked under your direction. I was delighted to see how well and healthy you looked, and surprised to note the height of the young giant standing between you and Mrs. Taylor. I am sure you are both very proud of him.

I understand that you continue to grow fruit on the home farm, and take most of the first prizes at the county fairs. This, of course, is not surprising. I had not realized until a few days ago, however, how dry it had been in northern Illinois and Indiana. Upon my return from a trip to Minnesota and Wisconsin, I saw for the first time many fields of corn that had been ruined by the drought. We have had it quite dry at Beltsville, but not that bad.

You will be interested to know that the experimental peach orchards on the farm that we bought at Beltsville produced about 3,000 bushels of excellent peaches this year; and there is a fine crop of Jonathan, York Imperial, Starking and Stayman Winesap. As you know, it was necessary for us to move off of Arlington Farm a couple of years ago, and that location is now a military barracks. We bought about 400 acres additional to the fruit and vegetable farm at Beltsville, so at the present time practically all of our Plant Industry research work is being conducted out there. Several additional office and laboratory buildings have been erected, and practically all of the staff is headquartered there. Similarly, about two thirds of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, and one half of the Dairy Division, a third of Animal Industry and about a third of Entomology are now located at the Beltsville Research Center, some two miles up the road from the Plant Industry Station.

You really would not feel very much at home in the West Wing, and I must admit that I do not feel at home there either. There is not one Bureau of Plant Industry staff member in the West Wing now.

We all hope that it may be possible for you to visit us sometime in the near future and see where we are located and what we are doing.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(E. C. Auchter)
Research Administrator

September 13, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Mr. Reed has given me a copy of the photograph that he took of you and your family at the time of his visit to Columbus last July. I am very glad, indeed, to have this, and to know that you are in good health.

As you probably know, the Bureau has changed greatly since my early days in it under your leadership. I hope that you will have an opportunity some time to visit us in our new location at Beltsville, and that we may have a chance to show you something of the set-up that we have here at the present time.

As my own administrative responsibilities in the Bureau have increased, I can appreciate more and more the fair and kindly point of view that you always had in your administration of the Bureau. I also have learned to have a profound respect for your ability to remember details and for your great knowledge of the field of horticulture particularly. I know that I learned many valuable lessons in knowing how you handled problems as Chief of Bureau, that stand me in good stead at the present time.

With kindest regards to both you and Mrs. Taylor, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Magness
Head Horticulturist in Charge

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to join with other members of the Bureau in extending greetings.

While you were Chief of Bureau I worked under the direction of Dr. O. F. Cook, in charge of the Division of Cotton, Rubber and Other Tropical Plants, and had many opportunities of direct contact with you. Those contacts have served as an inspiration in my further service in the Bureau. Under Dr. Cook I was engaged primarily in the study of rubber-bearing plants. I have continued that study; first under the direction of Mr. B. Y. Morrison, and, since 1940, under the direction of Dr. E. W. Brandes.

Through the years, the Bureau has expanded and enlarged its activities, but throughout has maintained its reputation for integrity and vision based on conservative foresight. Those of us who work in the Bureau feel that its enviable position amongst other bureaus is due in no slight degree to your influence in shaping its policies and directing its vision. The rubber work of the Bureau has had its ups and downs, its periods of poverty and periods of great expansion. The work has been interesting, and the discouragements sometimes great. On the whole, however, we feel that when history is written the Bureau's contribution in the way of rubber research will be considered important and it will be found that the Bureau has throughout taken a consistent, straightforward view of its responsibilities with respect to this important commodity.

With rubber, as with all other phases of the Bureau's activities, we find our over-all policy still guided in great measure by the policies established by you while Chief of Bureau.

Very truly yours,

(Loren G. Polhamus)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Upon his return from Columbus, Ohio in July, Mr. C. A. Reed showed me the picture of the family group and truly, "Time Marches On!" The last time I saw your son in the West Wing he was knee high to a grasshopper--and what a fine, strapping young man he is today!

You will perhaps recall that I was connected with Dr. Fairchild's office, starting there in 1916. I remained with that office until a year and a half ago. I am now happily connected with Dr. E. W. Brandes in Rubber Plant Investigations.

I am very grateful for the opportunity of congratulating you on your 81st birthday, and to wish you and your family continued good health and happiness.

Sincerely,

(J. L. Mahoney)

SHARE THIS COPY



USDA

FOR JULY 10, 1944

Plant Industry—in peace and war

IN HIS 1926 annual report as Chief of BPI, Dr. William A. Taylor reviewed some of the outstanding achievements of the Bureau, and said:

It is recognized that no accurate monetary expression can be made of the economic gains more or less directly resulting from the research activities of the Bureau. For comparative purposes, however, expression of the economic gains has been attempted on the basis of average prices prevailing during the time when the work of the Bureau brought about the improvements or other changes. On this basis these items would amount to considerably more than 200 million dollars annually.

A bit of history

"Considerably more than 200 million dollars annually!" Naturally, the question follows: How long has this thing been going on, anyway?

Emerson said, "The first farmer was the first man." That will give you an idea as to when plant-industry work actually started. It was not until 1900, however, that we began to write Plant Industry with capital letters. In October of that year Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson grouped the Divisions of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, Grass and Forage Plant Investigations, Pomology, and Experimental Gardens and Grounds into an Office of Plant Industry. The Agricultural Appropriation Act of July 1, 1901, added the Division of Botany and raised the Office to Bureau status. Other lines of investigations have been added from time to time, and in 1943 the name of the agency was changed to Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

Broadly speaking, the functions of the Bureau are to acquire knowledge concerning the fundamental principles governing crop production and utilization, and to apply this knowledge to agriculture in the interest of the general welfare.

Pre-war activities

The Bureau's role in plant introduction is often the one first mentioned,

since aside from corn, tobacco, pumpkin, bean, and a few minor crops, all our food plants have been introduced. Our early settlers brought with them the crops of northern Europe, many of which were poorly adapted to American conditions. Gradually, by other introductions, breeding, and selection, our agriculture has become distinctive.

The durum wheats, sorghums and other grains, Acala cotton, the navel orange, soybeans, Turkestan alfalfa, Korean lespedeza, and the sugarcane—these are but a few of the important crop plants brought from other lands.

The plant-breeding program, in close cooperation with the agricultural experiment stations and similar agencies, has given us hybrid corn, better wheats, improved disease-tolerant sugarcane, improved cotton, Marglobe tomato, Katahdin potato, Blakemore strawberry, and many other valuable new varieties. Success in breeding disease-resistant varieties has been outstanding.

For example, disease-resistant varieties of lettuce and cantaloups, developed in cooperation with the California Agricultural Experiment Station, returned to growers \$17 million a year over and above what they could have expected from growing the standard, susceptible sorts. *This sum is almost exactly the total cost of fruit and vegetable crops investigations conducted by the Department during the first 75 years of its existence!*

In his 1943 report as Chief of PISAE, Dr. Robert M. Salter said:

Added to these contributions of plant breeders are those of soil scientists who are making possible an increasingly efficient and discriminating use of the land, fertilizer specialists who are pointing the way to more economical and effective ways to manufacture and use fertilizer, and agricultural engineers who are developing improved and labor-saving methods, machines, and equipment for carrying on the operations of agriculture.

Handling, transportation, and storage methods worked out and introduced by the Bureau save growers and handlers millions of dollars each year, and result in more and better products for the consumer.

In the Bureau's chain of achievements are many golden links of outstanding ac-

complishments in fundamental research, from the early proof that bacteria could produce plant diseases, down the years to the observations on the ratio of leaf area to fruit production, and the epoch-making discoveries of the effect of length of day on plant growth and the value of plant growth substances.

The war effort

Hybrid corn added many millions of bushels of corn to the 1943 crop. In 1943, with 52 percent of all corn acreage hybrid, 6,570,000 acres of less land was used than was used in the bumper year of 1920 to grow about the same sized corn crop. The new varieties of potatoes which made up more than 28 percent of the Nation's certified seed potatoes in 1942 accounted in part for great increases in potato production.

Needed sugar is coming from Louisiana where a few years ago mosaic disease threatened the destruction of the industry. It was saved by planting the "sugar-bowl" with the improved, disease-tolerant sugarcane developed by the Bureau. Wood disease studies have helped in the more effective use of woods in aircraft, boat, and war-housing production.

Rubber production in the Western Hemisphere has been hastened and made more effective. A critical fiber situation has been met by growing abacá in Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras, a cooperative undertaking that has already brought millions of pounds of fiber to this country and that promises a million pounds a month when adequate fiber-cleaning equipment is installed on all the plantations.

It begins to appear that the Bureau's most popular contribution to the food front, "the battle line without which all others must fail," may turn out to be its ability to meet the need for garden information. More than 3 million copies of its MP 493, Victory Gardens, were distributed in 1943, and its current offering, MP 538, Growing Vegetables in Town and City, is rapidly becoming a popular handbook encyclopedia on how to succeed in the garden. Through publications and by means of the press and radio, the Bureau's accumulated information on growing vegetables at home has reached victory gardeners so effectively as to aid greatly in producing the most amazing home garden crops ever known. This is probably the most notable mass-practical application of plant science in world history!

We give you, then PISAE—the Bureau of prolific yesterdays, fruitful today's, and productive tomorrows!—JOHN A. FERRALL, PISAE.

Plant Industry Station,
Beltsville, Maryland,
December 1, 1944.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The real difficulty in preparing sketches such as that which immediately precedes this letter, is that one must depend usually upon data obtained from the person actually concerned. But think how much more lively an account could be prepared from information to be obtained from the private secretaries of the men or women concerned!

Now, I knew their private secretaries.

And the story of the creation of the Bureau of Plant Industry, as it came to me from these private secretaries, runs about as follows: When Commissioner Newton took over the Bureau of Agriculture--it did not become a Department, of course, until 1889--one of his first acts was to send for William Saunders, your old friend, who was a well known horticulturist and landscape gardener. The Commissioner asked Saunders to take over the job of planning the fruit and vegetable investigations; and in particular the job of making something of the gardens and grounds.

It may be difficult for one who now views these lovely grounds to realize it, but in 1862, when Saunders began work, these grounds were little more than a swamp, through which a discouraged canal crept. Saunders eliminated that canal, and went on to handle the gardens and grounds job for a matter of 38 years. Department of Agriculture administrative officers got into the habit of regarding him as immortal. But he fooled them; he died in 1899.

The Division of Botany had been established in March 1869; the Division of Pomology in 1886. In 1886, too, a section of mycology was created in the Division of Botany. A year later it was christened the section of vegetable pathology; and in 1891 became the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, with Dr. B. T. Galloway as Chief.

Well, according to my private secretary "pipe line," shortly after the death of Saunders, Secretary "Tama Jim" Wilson sent for Dr. Galloway.

"Galloway," he said, I'm not planning on hiring anyone in Saunder's place. I am going to turn the gardens and grounds work over to you."

"Fine!" said Dr. Galloway. But why not go a step farther and give me a real plant industry set-up? I mean a Bureau--taking in not only gardens and grounds along with the vegetable physiology and pathology work, but also grass, forage crops, and pomology.

The Secretary considered the proposal for a while.

"Not Botany?" he suggested, puzzled.

"Not just yet--for certain reasons," said Dr. Galloway. "Botany--and one or two other lines of work--Foreign Plant, Congressional Seed, and the like--will come along. That will be easily handled."

"I suppose so," agreed the Secretary. "That consolidation sounds pretty good to me. I'll dictate an order this afternoon putting the plan into effect. Yes, you are now Chief of the Bureau--well, anyway, Office--of Plant Industry. You'll need a good right-hand man."

"He's in Veg-Path right now," nodded Dr. Galloway. "Sharp as a brier. Never made an error of judgement--well, one--"

"What do you mean, one?"

"Why it was before he came to the Department," chuckled Dr. Galloway. "While he was still a student at the University of Nebraska--I just heard about it. It appears that he went with one of the professors of the University on a collecting trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cheyenne was then a typical wild west settlement. They saw a 'bad man' leaning against a saloon wall, guns strapped to his side, apparently half asleep. The youngster was something of a sleight-of-hand artist and he could not resist playing a trick on the man. Borrowing a silver dollar from the professor he pretended to pick it from the ground at the bad man's foot. The latter roused up instantly--the bad man, I mean, not the foot! 'That's my dollar, Bo,' he said. After a quick glance at the guns strapped to the man's waist, the youngster decided that the professor would have to lose his dollar."

"That was no error of judgment," decided the Secretary, laughing. "I think it was pretty fast and pretty smart thinking. Who's your man?"

"His name is Woods," said Dr. Galloway. "Albert F. Woods."

And that was the team that made agricultural history for a good many years as Chief and Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, though they may not have been quite so well known to their general correspondents as to scientific men, for usually the best one could make of interpreting Dr. Galloway's signature was "By Golly;" while the "A. F. Woods" became "Otunde." Dr. Woods' handwriting has improved a good bit since his connection with the Graduate School, but Dr. Taylor will undoubtedly go down in history as the first high official of the Bureau whose signature could be read by the average person!


(John A. Ferrall)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
Washington, D. C., August 31, 1926.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a report of the work of the Bureau of Plant Industry for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1926.

Respectfully,

WM. A. TAYLOR,
Chief of Bureau.

HON. W. M. JARDINE,
Secretary of Agriculture.

A QUARTER CENTURY OF SERVICE

The Bureau of Plant Industry was established by statute July 1, 1901, combining and enlarging the activities of five previously separate divisions of the department: Gardens and grounds, vegetable pathology and physiology, pomology, botany, and agrostology.

The completion of the fiscal year 1926 brings the bureau to the twenty-fifth anniversary of its formal organization, and it is fitting that a brief review be recorded of some of the striking accomplishments of this quarter century.

Throughout this period the bureau has been primarily a research organization, employing specialists trained in any science bearing in any manner upon the crop problems selected for critical study. National progress in agriculture through intelligent appreciation of existing facts and through the development of new ideas directly or indirectly related to crop production and plant growth has been the underlying purpose of the bureau. Some of its activities have accordingly dealt more with general agricultural efficiency than with crop handling—for example, the organization of farm-management studies, now a branch of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; the employment of local agricultural advisers of farm demonstration agents, now enlarged into the Smith-Lever extension, States and Federal Government cooperating; studies of rural organization and systems of agricultural marketing, later organized as the Bureau of Markets and now a part of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics;

all these began as offices or branches of the Bureau of Plant Industry and developed until their size or relation to other branches of the department rendered their transfer expedient.

Studies of the algae and bacteria affecting the potability of water—perhaps the least agricultural of all the bureau's researches and accordingly discontinued—have had a stimulating influence upon the sanitary improvement of water supplies, especially in dairy regions.

The most numerous and perhaps the most significant of the bureau's contributions toward the Nation's economic progress, however, have been the establishment of new industries, the introduction of new plants, the development of new methods of plant culture or handling, or other new ideas involving plant production or plant science.

Identifying and determining the causes of destructive plant diseases and the development of methods for their control, especially when major crops were involved, has always been one of the principal phases of the bureau's activities. In most instances the researches on fruit or field-crop diseases have led to practical methods for partial or complete control.

BENEFITS OF DISEASE CONTROL

While there is no question that very great benefit in the production of many crops resulted from methods of disease control established by the bureau, it is difficult in most cases to estimate this benefit in dollars and cents.

Benefits have resulted from the amelioration of injury caused by diseases through the breeding and dissemination of resistant varieties or through the establishment of control by spraying or rotation systems or by identifying diseased plants promptly and by roguing out diseased plants before injury by the disease has become widespread. The latter method has proved exceptionally valuable in combating the injury of mosaic diseases, especially in sugar cane and in potatoes. As a result of the control of virus diseases of potato through seed improvement, 15 to 30 per cent larger yields are being obtained.

Bacteriological and chemical studies of agricultural soils have led to efficient control of certain of the important soil bacteria and to more economical handling of fertilizers. Studies on comparative farm and market quality of large numbers of different varieties of fruits and vegetables and improvements in handling, storing, and methods of utilization of plant products have been of great value.

CUMULATIVE VALUE OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

It is recognized that no accurate monetary expression can be made of the economic gains more or less directly resulting from the research activities of the bureau. For comparative purposes, however, expression of these economic gains has been attempted on the basis of average prices prevailing during the times when the work of the bureau brought about the improvements or other changes referred to. On this basis these items would amount to considerably more than \$200,000,000 annually, which is more than fifty times as large as the total annual appropriation for the bureau's activities, and, furthermore, even this large sum does not satisfactorily represent the benefits actually due directly or indirectly to researches of the bureau.

The vital essential to any effective adjustment of crop acreage to the market requirements of the time is approximate stabilization of crop production. This can be approached only when crop pests are measurably under control and when crop varieties are

available which are thoroughly adapted to the climate and to the soil with which it is handled effectively. Enough progress has been made in these directions to warrant increased and sustained research effort in this field.

The farming public has derived significant though intangible benefits from the introduction of something over 65,000 different plants procured by agricultural explorers in various foreign countries and distributed through botanic gardens and State agricultural experiment stations and to individual plant specialists.

IMPROVED COTTON PRODUCTION

As a result of intensive studies of cotton-production problems in the United States by specialists of the bureau, superior varieties of cotton have been bred, while others have been discovered and introduced from abroad and developed in this country, including such varieties as Acala, Lone Star, Columbia, Trice, Foster, Express, Durango, Meade, and Pima. The Acala cotton, a superior upland variety producing a premium staple, was discovered in 1906 in a remote region of southern Mexico by an expedition sent out by this department. It was introduced, selected, and established in cultivation in the United States. It is estimated that the 1925 cotton crop of California and the Mexican Imperial Valley (practically all of the Acala variety) had a value of \$27,200,000. For the 7-year period from 1919 to 1925, inclusive, the cotton crop of California, including the Imperial Valley district in Lower California, had a total value of \$126,543,000, which was largely the result of planting superior varieties of cotton introduced and developed by the specialists of this bureau. With the exception of a small acreage of the Pima Egyptian cotton in the Salt River Valley of Arizona, practically the entire irrigated cotton area of western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California is now producing Acala cotton. The Acala cotton is also being grown on hundreds of thousands of acres in the natural rainfall regions of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

IN WHICH WE TELL OF A LITTLE
MISUNDERSTANDING---

The Division of Pomology was established in 1885 (1886 formally), with Professor H. E. Van Deman as Chief.

From the beginning it was a very busy office and soon Van Deman was asking for an assistant pomologist. By 1890 it was decided to do something about this and the Civil Service Commission was asked to hold an examination for "Assistant Pomologist."

Men with scientific training in pomology were about as scarce as the proverbial hens' teeth in those days, but Van Deman knew of a man named Fred Taylor who was a good practical fruit man and had a bit of scientific training. He asked the Civil Service Commission to be sure and send application blanks to him.

The examination was finally held and the papers rated. A representative of the Civil Service Commission stopped at Van Deman's office and told him Taylor had passed at the head of the list, "miles ahead of the other applicants." "We are sending the papers to the Secretary's Office," he said, "so I suppose you will be getting them tomorrow so that you can recommend an appointment."

Later that afternoon a casual acquaintance stopped at Van Deman's office and said he understood that Taylor was being offered the job as the new assistant. "I suppose so; I haven't the papers yet," said Van Deman.

"You are getting a fine young man," said the visitor, enthusiastically; "probably the best equipped young horticulturist and pomologist in the country. I think he has a great future, not only as a research man, but as an administrator."

"Well, perhaps," agreed Van Deman, not greatly impressed. "I know a good bit about the sort of work he has been doing, and I think we can make him fit in. I'm sorry he hasn't a better scientific training--"

"Better scientific training!" exclaimed the visitor. "Look here, Michigan is the best agricultural school in the country right now--with a great young teacher of horticulture and pomology--L. H. Bailey's his name-- and young Taylor is the best student they ever had. Dr. Beal told me that."



Van Deman smiled at the man's vehemance.

"You're barking up the wrong tree," he insisted. "Of course I know Dr. Beal--he's one of the best teachers of botany in the country. And I've heard enthusiastic reports about young Bailey. But the point is that I'm sure Fred Taylor never attended Michigan Agricultural College--"

"Fred Taylor!" exclaimed the visitor. "I'm not talking about Fred Taylor. The man who passed at the head of your examination--the Civil Service man told me so in the hall just now--is William A. Taylor. Dr. Beal told me--wrote me about it--said young Taylor had passed so far ahead of the rest of the applicants that they might just as well not have been running at all--they were left at the post, as we say in Kentucky."

Yes, that's the way it happened. William A. Taylor, not Fred Taylor, became the new assistant pomologist. He proceeded to make good all of the nice things his boosters had said about him. Old timers in the Bureau or retired still talk about the impression Dr. Taylor made shortly after his arrival in Washington--when he attended one of the little scientific seminars then being held one or two evenings a week at the homes of members of the scientific staff. He quickly demonstrated that he knew his fruit growing.

He also quickly demonstrated ability as an able administrator as well as a careful and painstaking research man, but for years he shunned administrative office, feeling that it would interfere too much with his research work. Quite early in his connection with the Division of Pomology he declined the position of Chief for that reason, though he was finally prevailed upon to accept the office of Assistant Chief, as that made fewer demands on his time.

In a very few years he had become recognized as perhaps the outstanding authority on fruit growing in the country. Improvements in methods developed under his guidance resulted in saving millions of dollars to fruit growers and handlers. Thus it was that years later in one of his reports as Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry he was able to write:

"It is recognized that no accurate monetary expression can be made of the economic gains more or less directly resulting from the research activities of the Bureau. For comparative purposes, however, expression of the economic gains has been attempted on the basis of average prices prevailing during the time when the work of the Bureau brought about the improvements or other changes. On this basis these items would amount to considerable more than 200 million dollars a year."



WFT-11

HENRY E. VAN DEMAN--GENTLEMAN AND SCHOLAR

Young William A. Taylor, fresh from college, was fortunate in coming under the influence of Van Deman, who was not only one of the most widely consulted horticultural and pomological authorities, but a man of splendid Christian character. At the time of his death (April 28, 1915) Robert Sparks Walker, a former president of the Tennessee Horticultural Society, wrote: "There was not an atom of egotism in his personality. His simple life and his sweet humility contributed to his greatness." Incidentally, it was not alone on Van Deman that young Taylor made a good first impression; he won the friendship of Van Deman's year-old daughter, a friendship that has continued to this day, as will be noted from a letter elsewhere in this book.

Van Deman was born in Ohio and by the time he was 10 was so expert in budding fruit trees that he was producing plants equal to those his father had been purchasing from commercial nurseries. The Civil War interrupted this work as well as the youngster's schooling. He served with distinction in Co. A of the 1st Ohio heavy artillery. After the war he moved to Kansas where he soon won such a reputation as a plantsman that he was drafted to fill the chair of botany and horticulture at the Kansas Agricultural College, in 1878. Returning to his first love, his farm, after a few years, he thought he was settled for life. He was mistaken. In 1885 he was called to Washington, D. C. to form the Division of Pomology in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It seems that in connection with a very unusual exhibit of Kansas fruits that he made at the New Orleans Exposition he had advocated the establishment of a Federal office of pomology. So they gave him the job!

This, then, was the man under whose influence young Taylor began his Federal career. Van Deman was interested in all phases of horticulture and pomology and was a pioneer in advocating the introduction of plants from abroad, his early efforts resulting in bringing the mango to Florida. His obsession, however, was the belief that no research job is ever complete until the facts obtained have been placed at the disposal of those who need and can use them. His chief delight was in getting information of use to growers.

This brings us to mention of a worker in the Department's Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics who would delight Professor Van Deman's heart. She, too, has this obsession, and has done something about it! Since that Bureau was organized in 1923 she has been in charge of its information services, quickly adopting each new medium that would help to interpret more fully to the families of this country scientific facts that might help them to be better fed, better clothed, better housed. Her name is Van Deman, too, Ruth Van Deman. She is Professor Van Deman's daughter--yes, the same daughter whose friendship young Taylor won when she was but a year old.

Small world, isn't it?



1187-45

Bird's-eye view of U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., about 1900. This shows the greenhouses then close to the main building. These greenhouses were later removed to the Botanical Garden: (1) the old red brick building; 2, the greenhouses; 3, frame structures occupied by the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry from 1901 on; 4, Smithsonian Institution; 5, Bureau of Entomology. Across the street to the right are seen the private houses occupied by various offices and laboratories of the Bureau of Plant Industry.



CENTENNIAL PECAN TREE

This photograph was taken by Dr. Taylor in 1902 and shows a grafted tree of the Centennial pecan in the Oak Alley Plantation at Festel, Louisiana. Nuts from the original Centennial tree (which formerly stood on the Anita Plantation of Mr. Amant Bourgeois, on the east bank of the Mississippi River, in St. James Parish, La.) were awarded a diploma at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876--hence the variety name. It was apparently the first variety of pecan successfully propagated by budding or grafting, the first to be planted commercially, and one of the first catalogued and offered for sale commercially.

During his service with the Bureau Dr. Taylor witnessed a phenomenal development of nut growing and breeding activities, with the pecan coming into its own as a commercial product and the relatively unknown filbert winning a firm place in popular favor. In fact, competent authorities have stated that the filbert hybrids developed in connection with the Bureau's plant breeding work during Dr. Taylor's term as Chief are worth more than the total cost of the nut investigations project since its inauguration!

Plant Explorers Bring Treasures From Abroad



PLANT explorers from the Department, searching in southern Mexico for weevil-resistant cotton, made a great find there in 1906. Southern Mexico is the native home of the boll weevil. It was natural to expect that the cottons grown in the region would have more weevil resistance than cottons grown where the insect had not been long established. Accordingly, the explorers made journeys by muleback to scores of remote places looking for varieties worth trying in the United States. In the town of Acala, in the central part of the State of Chihuahua, they discovered a variety that is now grown in all the irrigated valleys of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas, in many districts farther east in Texas, and in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, and other cotton-growing States.

Investigators did selection and acclimatization work with the new introduction for 4 years near San Antonio, Tex., before experimenting with it in field plantings. It gave good yields in its first field tests, and soon attracted the attention of growers. In fact, the new variety, known as Acala, became popular too quickly. The demand could be supplied only with mixed seed, much of it so poor that some reputed Acala fields showed only scattering plants of the true Acala type. Farmers were disappointed; and the initial popularity of the new variety declined as rapidly as it had risen. But the scientists were not discouraged. They knew what Acala could do under the right conditions.

Accordingly, they attacked the problem of establishing pure seed stocks. This was an indispensable means of preserving the variety. Representatives of the Department located communities in California where it seemed probable that regular supplies of good Acala cottonseed could be maintained unmixed with the seed of other varieties. The first Acala-cotton communities have the protection of a special act of the California Legislature, which establishes pure-seed districts for Acala cotton and makes it unlawful to interfere with the production of Acala by planting other varieties. The one-variety communities make possible the production of large supplies of pure seed.

Cotton plantings in the irrigated valleys have ranged in recent years from 400,000 to 800,000 acres. Practically the entire acreage in all the larger valleys is Acala cotton. Acala districts are being established also in the main Cotton Belt. One-variety communities devoted to the production of Acala cotton exist in Texas, Oklahoma, and other States. The variety is one of the earliest and most prolific of the upland type. It has large bolls and a fiber that is abundant and even on the seeds. In staple length it ranges from 1½ to 1¾ inches under favorable conditions. It is suited to weevil-infested regions as well as to short seasons along the northern rim of the Cotton Belt, because it produces good crops in a relatively short time.

Acala is only one of scores of valuable agricultural plants introduced into the United States by the Federal Government. Plant-introduction work goes back to colonial times. Benjamin Franklin, when he was in England as agent of the Colony of Pennsylvania, sent home silkworm eggs and mulberry cuttings to start the silk-worm industry, also specimens of seeds and plants that he thought might be adapted to this country. This action encouraged American consuls abroad to do likewise. Jefferson as the first secretary of State took great interest in the introduction of plants and animals. After the creation of the Department of Agriculture in 1862, plant-introduction work expanded greatly. As a matter of fact all our field crops, except tobacco and corn and a few minor crops, have been introduced from foreign countries. Not even the potato is native to the United States; its original home is below our southern boundary.

In the last 35 years or so, the Department has systematized and scientifically controlled the plant-introduction work and the benefit has been tremendous. Among the important crops started from plant introductions are numerous citrus fruits, durum wheat, Sudan grass, soybeans, many varieties of vinifera grapes, Persian walnuts, and figs. Explorers from the Department seek valuable new plants in all parts of the world. Entomologists and pathologists here carefully inspect each shipment on its arrival for pests and signs of diseases, and plant breeders adapt the introductions to American conditions.

The crops introduced include several not previously grown in this country, and not competing with any other crops grown here. Among them are the Washington Navel orange, which gave the initial impetus to California's orange production, numerous varieties of the avocado, the mango, Chinese and Japanese persimmons, the papaya, and the pistache nut. These introductions diversify our agriculture in ways largely noncompetitive with existing crop production.

The date industry, scarcely 25 years old in the United States, originated with the introduction by the Department of the choicest dates from Old World gardens. It has a noncompetitive domestic market because the United States imports more than 20 times as many dates as it grows. American dates are so superior in quality that they have opened new markets, without as yet diminishing the demand for imported dates.

Another promising new and noncompetitive crop is an early-ripening strain of the Satsuma orange. This orange, recently introduced from Japan, ripens in the Gulf coast region between the middle of September and the last week of October, in which period almost no other fresh-picked oranges come on the market. American Egyptian cotton, bred from varieties introduced by the Department scientists from Egypt some 20 years ago, supplies the longest and best Egyptian cotton needed by American spinning mills and meets a growing demand by the manufacturers of high-duty automobile and truck tire casings. Tung-oil trees, first introduced by the Department in 1905, are the basis of an expanding production of tung oil, an important constituent of high-grade varnishes.

Plant Breeders Restore Sugarcane Industry



WHEN Etienne De Bore, hopefully expectant beside his open sugar kettle on the banks of the Mississippi River, saw crystals forming in the cane juice and shouted "It granulates!" he envisaged a long-continued prosperity for himself and his French neighbors and perhaps for their children. But it is not likely he even dreamed that 1½ centuries would pass before the first natural crisis would threaten the sugarcane industry. The plantation homes, famous for their luxury, the planters noted for their culture and hospitality, and the beautiful, rippling oceans of sea-green cane withstood the assaults of free-trade exponents and actual invasion by hostile armies in two wars, only to be brought to the verge of ruin by a physical enemy that cannot be seen even with a microscope.

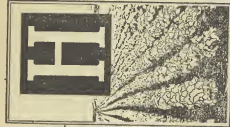
The Department of Agriculture was called upon in 1919 to tell why yields of cane were falling off in sections of Louisiana where the welfare of whole communities depended upon this crop. It discovered that the trouble was an infectious disease, caused by an ultramicroscopic virus, and transmitted from plant to plant by a tiny insect, the corn leaf aphid, much as malaria is transmitted by a mosquito. Inexorably the malady advanced through the agency of this insect, at a rate that meant involvement of the entire acreage devoted to sugarcane and utter ruin of the industry within a few years.

A race began, with no crack of starter's gun and no multitude of enthusiastic onlookers. The contestants, ruthless nature and enlightened science, were equally determined. The purse was that historic landmark of American agriculture, the sugarcane industry of the South. Mother Nature led, most of the way. Before the backstretch was reached she indifferently viewed the havoc caused by the decline from 15 to 6 or 7 tons of cane per acre, the abandonment of more than 50 percent of the formerly productive Delta, and a sheer drop in sugar production from 250,000 tons annually to less than 50,000 tons. The banks refused to bet on science, rated as a long shot in 1926, and the race appeared to be over.

The Department had anticipated these developments and had started research during the first year of the disease epidemic. Field studies supplemented by laboratory and greenhouse experiments indicated the unusual nature of the disease, its peculiar manner of spread, and other essential biological facts. Direct treatment of plants or therapeutic measures are impracticable in the case of field-crop diseases. Investigators carefully considered the possibility of controlling the insect carrier, but the leaf aphid lives and breeds mainly on wild vegetation and is out of reach because of the extent and character of its many refuges.

There was a chance of finding varieties of cane that would not take the disease or would tolerate the infection without severe injury. This line of attack seemed the most promising. The American Continent, however, yielded not a single

Disease Resistance Bred in Lettuce Averts Disaster



HOW much would you be affected if you could not get the crisp head lettuce that reaches such perfection in our southwestern and Pacific coast areas? What if some inescapable plant disease should ruin the 100,000 odd acres of winter lettuce that constitute over half the total acreage grown for sale? These are real questions that faced the country a few years ago, and which the Department was called upon to answer. The 175,000-acre lettuce crop is a minor farm product, but it is worth some \$30,000,000 to \$35,000,000 a year. In the Southwest, where some 20,000 to 25,000 carloads of winter lettuce are grown annually, a destructive disease called brown blight appeared. This disease caused the plants in affected fields to become yellow, stop growing, and finally die. It lives in the soil for many years. Once it gets into a field, lettuce cannot be successfully grown there. There was no way to control the disease. The only way to avoid it was to plant lettuce on land free from the disease. It spread rapidly, and the suitable disease-free areas were rapidly becoming exhausted. Yields were decreasing and an important industry of a large region was apparently doomed to destruction.

During the early stages of this development the Department launched an effort to avoid the impending disaster. I. C. Jagger, a Department scientist, produced by selection and by breeding a number of strains of lettuce that appear practically the same as the variety New York but which are very highly resistant to brown blight.

Successful crops of these new sorts, named Imperial no. 2, Imperial no. 3, and Imperial no. 6, can be grown on soils infested with brown blight where the old variety would be a total financial loss.

These new varieties, while practically immune to brown blight, were highly susceptible to mildew, another serious disease of lettuce in the Southwest, and so were of little value where this additional trouble was prevalent. Again, Mr. Jagger developed new varieties—this time, resistant to two diseases, and therefore called "double-resistant" sorts. He obtained these double-resistant varieties by first making crosses between the mildew-susceptible New York variety that was commonly grown, and a Cos or Romaine variety from France that was commercially worthless in the region but highly resistant to mildew. Selections from this cross were highly resistant to mildew and of good quality. Certain of these selections were then crossed with the brown-blight resistant varieties, Imperial no. 2 and Imperial no. 3. Selections from these latter crosses finally resulted in the double-resistant strains, Imperial C, Imperial D, and Imperial F.

From 75,000 to 80,000 acres in the Southwest were planted with these various resistant strains last season. They returned \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to the lettuce growers, even at the low prices then prevailing.

SCOOP! LIGHT SHINES THROUGH BUSHEL!

In the noonday of Dr. Taylor's period of service as Chief of Bureau, the tomato-shipping industry of Florida got in a bad way by reason of attacks on tomatoes of wilt and nailhead rust. It was pretty clear that unless something drastic could be done the industry was destined for extinction. With his desk piled with frantic appeals for help by growers and shippers, picture Dr. Taylor's delight when Fred Pritchard walked into his office one afternoon and announced that he had the solution to the problem!

It was in the form of a new tomato hybrid that Fred had developed along with his association, William S. Porte. It had been developed from the Marvel, a tomato with some resistance to these diseases, but a poor yield-er, and the Globe, a tomato of excellent quality but quite susceptible to injury from the diseases. They called the new hybrid the Marglobe. As it turned out, it should have been named Caesar, for it was a case of veni, vidi, vici (I came, I saw, I conquered!) when it was introduced into commercial culture in Florida.

This Marglobe tomato proved to be a good bit more than a mere stop-gap shipping tomato. It went on to become the principal canning tomato in the Middle Atlantic and South Atlantic regions. It became, too, the dominant variety in Mexico during the heyday of the tomato-shipping industry there. Now it is widely known all over the world and is probably the best tomato variety in the world.

As stated, it was developed by the late Fred Pritchard and William S. Porte, two men whose experts in keeping their lights under a bushel. In fact, Fred was so self-effacing that a good many of his associates in the Bureau had never heard of him until they read in the newspapers a brief account of his work when he suddenly died, in harness, as the result of a heart attack. Bill Porte has lived up to the self-effacement standard, so you can imagine the surprise of those who know him when they found that a slight glimmer of light seems to have forced its way through the bushel under which he has kept his light hidden so effectively. The Country Gentleman for October 1944 states:

"A native of one of the top tomato states, New Jersey, broke the record in breeding up and testing a valuable new tomato variety, the Pan America. William S. Porte, plant breeder with the Department of Agriculture for twenty-six years, is a world expert on tomatoes. He worked with Plant Scientist Pritchard in production of the Marglobe and other now well-known varieties. Porte bred the Pan America by crossing the Marglobe with a so-called wild currant tomato from the Andes region of Peru. It was ready for the seed trade only four years after the cross was made, a record time.

"Porte is now engaged in working on other 'long shots' in efforts to capitalize on the disease-resistant characters in certain wild tomatoes, which may open up a whole new field of breeding possibilities with this farm crop."

February 2, 1931

NEWS LETTER
Division of Fruit and Vegetable Vol. III, No. 3
Crops and Diseases

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING. John A. Ferrall

PRITCHARD-- "Peace," declares Milton, "hath her victories no
MAKER OF KINGS! less than War." Fred Pritchard was the hero of one of
the notable victories of Peace and found, as many have,
that War is much quicker to reward its victors, and that the public re-
members them very much better. We know a whole lot more about Napoleon
than we do about Linnaeus. At that, Pritchard did work under more
favorable conditions than Linnaeus. The latter is reported to have made
a plant collecting trip through Europe that covered 4,600 miles and re-
quired five months, receiving \$125.00 as his compensation!

I rather suspect that Fred Pritchard preferred things as they are.
He was one of the most unassuming men I have ever met, and I met him
occasionally for fifteen years or more before I learned accidentally of
the things he was accomplishing for American horticulture. At one of
the annual banquets of the Botanical Society of Washington, D. C.,
tomatoes were served--tomatoes of a superlative quality. This Marglobe
variety, I was told, had been created by Fred Pritchard and introduced
back in 1924. Its superior qualities had led to an increase in its
planting from year to year until by 1929 it was being grown almost ex-
clusively in Florida, extensively in the Atlantic Coast States, Texas
and the Middle West, and over the border. And the estimated annual value
of the crop is \$20,000,000.00 or more! Then it dawned upon me that I was
associated in an office with a man who had far surpassed the proverbial
achievement of making two blades of grass grow where one had grown before.

Grass has its value, but for human food the tomato must be ranked a
good bit above it. Discussing this phase of the matter in the Country
Gentleman, Julia M. Zimmer wrote: "The progress in the field of nutri-
tion has proclaimed the tomato to be the rightful ruler of the vegetable
kingdom. Mother Nature has endowed the tomato far beyond other vegetables
with power to guard the health of man, since the canned product retains all
the rich vitamin properties of curative and preventative value that the
tomato freshly picked from the vine possesses. Tomatoes, fresh or canned,
are a good source of vitamins A, B and C. Therefore, the colorful 'love
apple' should be served on as many occasions as possible, as it is
adaptable for every course in a meal, with the possible exception of
dessert, and even here a piquant tomato butter and crisp crackers are not
amiss."

A rightful ruler of the vegetable kingdom! Then Fred Pritchard was
really a "maker of kings," too, and a Napoleon in his own field. How he
would have chuckled at that! He had promised to give us a little sketch
of the development of the Marglobe tomato, but--well, the other day while
discussing official matters with an associate, he remarked, "My arm is
numb!" And died. His heart had failed him. So Fred Pritchard died in
the same quiet manner in which he had lived.



WILLIAM S. PORTE

Associate Horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Originator of the new Pan-America tomato. In this picture he is shown holding a branch of the wild Peruvian currant tomato. To the left are three Marglobe tomatoes. These to are the parents of the Pan-America tomatoes--to the right. (August 1941)

(U.S.D.A. PHOTOGRAPH BY FORSYTHE)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service

Washington, D. C.

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION
DECEMBER 30, 1933 (SATURDAY)

SECRETARY WALLACE PRAISES DR. W. A. TAYLOR
FOR SERVICE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

- - - - -

Following a Presidential extension of his service for six months, Dr. William A. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, retires today after more than 42 years in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A native of Michigan, he began his work for the Department in February, 1891, as assistant pomologist, before the establishment of the Bureau of Plant Industry as such, and became head of the bureau 20 years ago. He has served under ten Secretaries, beginning in the administration of J. M. Rusk.

Secretary Wallace in a letter of appreciation to Dr. Taylor says that "few men in the field of science have gained -- or deserved -- greater world-wide respect." The Secretary's letter follows:

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I wish I could place in a single brief document an account of the contributions you have made to American agriculture and American life during the 42 years you have been with the Department of Agriculture. No one can do that. The Department's largest scientific bureau is your record.

It is possible, however, to tell you of the sincere appreciation I have of your service. Few men in the field of science have gained -- or deserved -- greater world-wide respect. Your own close neighbors here in the Department, in addition to recognizing the public debt to you, hold you personally in the highest esteem. Hundreds of those who have served under you can speak of you only in terms of affection and respect.

I shall always be grateful to the President for extending your service beyond the usual retirement date in order that you could give the benefit of your experience to Knowles Ryerson -- one of your own men -- who is to succeed you. And knowing how absorbed you are in every aspect of the bureau's work, I am taking it for granted that Mr. Ryerson and I may always count on your wise counsel and assistance.

Your retirement will not end your usefulness to agriculture, I am sure. Dr. L. O. Howard and others have made notable contributions to agricultural literature at their leisure, and if you choose to do this your expressions will be followed by all men of science.

May the future provide you with a share of the happiness your labors have brought to others.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. A. Wallace,
Secretary.

Dr. Taylor has represented the Government in many important capacities and is the author of a large number of scientific bulletins and articles. In 1900 he served as an expert in horticulture with the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition and was a member of the International Jury on Fruit Trees and Fruit. In 1904 he was a member of the International Jury of the Department of Horticulture at the St. Louis Exposition and in 1918 was a member of the Agricultural Commission in Europe.

During the period covered by Dr. Taylor's service to the Department of Agriculture his bureau contributed new and better plants, improvements in production, shipping and marketing methods, disease and pest control, and fundamental scientific knowledge, much of which is now woven into the general fabric of our agriculture, industry, and science. A brief list of some of these accomplishments includes:

The organization and prosecution of the campaign for the control of the destructive black stem rust of wheat and other cereals in the Upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes regions. As a result of this the annual losses from this disease on wheat alone have been reduced from 57,000,000 bushels to 8,000,000 bushels in the territory where the work is under way.

The working out through sustained and carefully planned experimentation in the Great Plains of cultural and crop rotation practices which have materially reduced the cereal production hazards and tend to stabilize the agriculture of that great and fertile region.

The breeding and introduction of numerous improved varieties of wheat, oats, rice, barley, corn and grain sorghums and the development of practical methods of controlling diseases that attack them.

The pioneer work in the development of commercial standards for grain which provided the basis for the Federal grain inspection service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The introduction and stabilization of purity of superior varieties of upland cotton. One of these, the Accla, is grown to the extent of several hundred thousand acres in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The establishment of American Egyptian long staple cotton production in Arizona through the breeding and introduction of the Pima variety.

Demonstration of the need for and practicability of single variety community production of cotton to insure uniformity of fiber and avoid mongrelizing through varietal mixture in the field or at the gin.

Reinvigoration of the cane sugar industry of the Gulf States through breeding and introduction of disease-resistant varieties of cane.

Breeding and propagation for early commercial-scale dissemination of a curly top disease resistant variety of sugar beet and development of method of accelerated production of sugar beet seed.

Discovery of causal organism and development, in cooperation with State agencies, of practical methods of eradication of the citrus canker disease which threatened destruction of the citrus industry of California, Texas, and Florida.

Determination of the effect of relative length of day and night on the growth, blossoming, and fruiting of plants, through which methods of experimentation with plants have been profoundly modified.

Development through research of improved practice in tobacco production both as to yields per acre and quality of product through effective fertilizing practice and control of destructive diseases.

Discovery of causes, and development of methods of control by application of spray or dust fungicides, of many fungus diseases of fruits and vegetables.

Development through sustained research of improved practices in harvesting, transporting and storing and controlling storage diseases of fruits and vegetables, which have profoundly influenced the transportation and storage industries as well as farm practice, especially with reference to citrus fruits, apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, and other perishables in transcontinental and export movement.

Introduction from abroad and establishment in commercial production in the United States of many varieties of important crops including dates, olives, avocados, persimmons, grapes, soybeans, wheat, oats, rice, barley, lespedeza, etc.

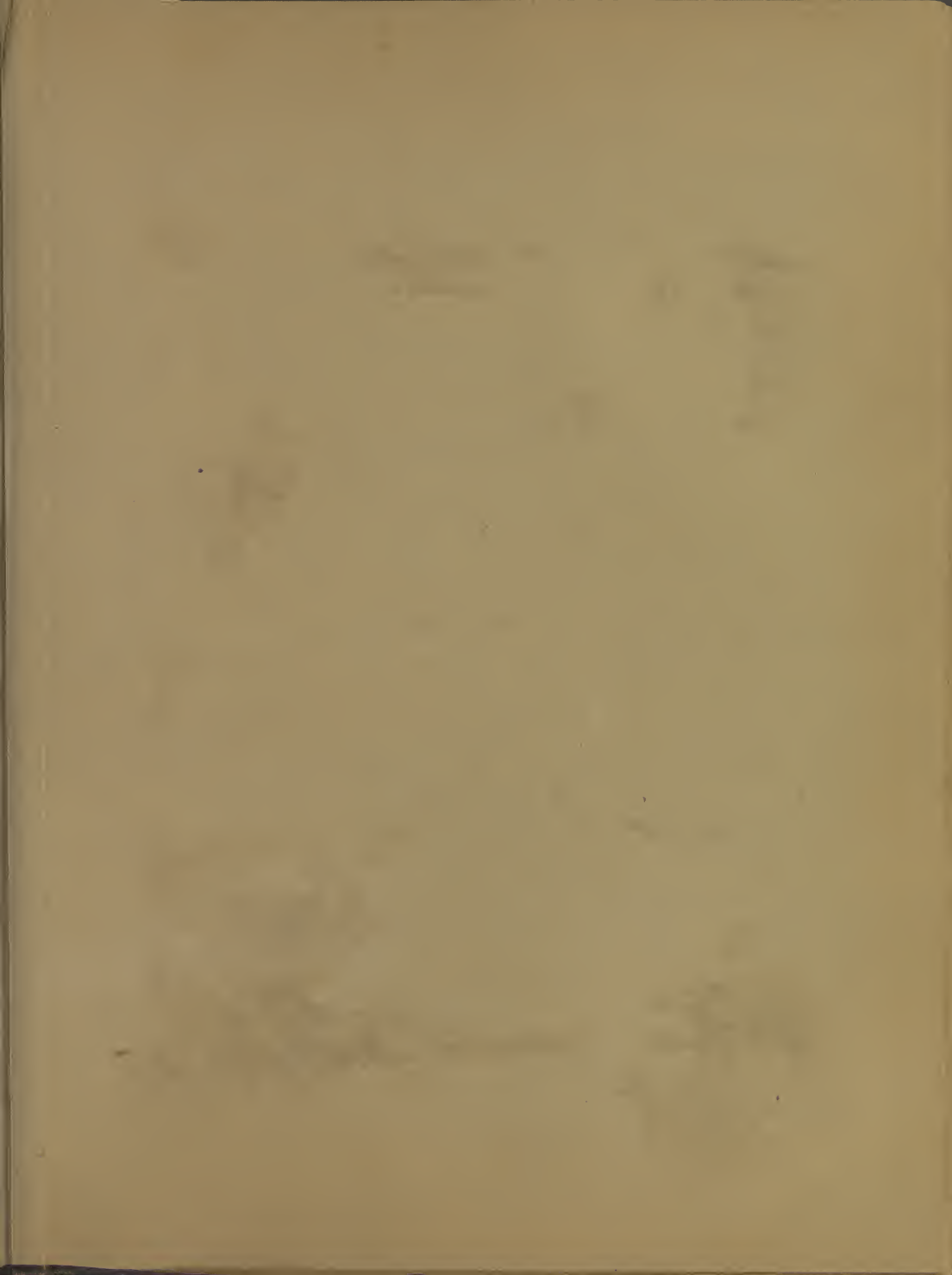
Breeding of many commercially important disease resistant varieties of wheat, corn, tomatoes, beans, lettuce, melons, etc., and improved varieties of blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and other small fruits.

Development of practical methods of removing toxic insecticidal spray residues from fruits in preparation for marketing.

Determination of necessity for climatic adaptation of alfalfa and red clover seed to conditions where planted, and development of method of protecting farmers against unwitting use of unadapted imported seed, upon which staining and other provisions of Federal Seed Act are based.

Location of sources of boron contamination of irrigation water and devising of practical methods of protecting crops against boron injury.

The development and application of practical methods of control of the blister rust disease of white pines which threatened destruction of the most valuable stumpage in the Northern and far Western States.



.....

TRIBUTE TO A HARDY SPECIMEN OF HOMO SAPIENS MICHIGANENSIS

When one has served his country with distinction and ability,
And modestly retires into a life of more tranquility,
It's fitting that associates of intimate proximity
Should offer him a tribute of appropriate sublimity.

Although the wheels of government may roll on to infinity,
We'll miss him long and often from his haunts in this vicinity.
Accustomed as we long have been to seeing him diurnally,
And feeling that he always has regarded us paternally.

The hero of our story is a man of lofty qualities,
A scientist, executive, not given to frivolities.
It's readily apparent to an amateur psychologist
That he's the very model of an erudite phytologist.

Successfully performing all his duties multifarious,
Presiding over projects that were numerous and various,
He's done a work of magnitude in manner unspectacular,
And all without indulging in an utterance oracular.

As head of an establishment primarily botanical,
He never has exhibited an attitude tyrannical;
In serving as the manager of this so-called bureaucracy,
He always has avoided the employment of autocracy.

His knowledge is so ample that he need make no apology
For anything he knows concerning plants or their ecology.
He knows about all kinds of plants, their habits and their media;
Infact upon such matters he's a live encyclopedia.

Though learned in the sciences called phytobiological,
He's celebrated chiefly for achievements pomological.
Indeed it may be stated as a matter platitudinous,
He ranks as high authority on peaches pulchritudinous.

And he's so well acquainted with all forms of plant material,
He can tell an Adam's apple from a Grimes or York Imperial.
He also knows his onions and their nature odoriferous,
And he knows just how to tell them from their neighbors umbelliferous.

He's versed in every branch of horticulture and agronomy,
Especially considered in relation to gastronomy.
He believes in plant improvement by selection and hybridity,
And in protecting citrus fruits from damage by frigidity.

.....

He's wise on plant diseases, and their pathogens and genesis,
And he can tell you how to keep them off the premises.
In short, we do not need to have the word of a phrenologist
To see that he's a model of an erudite phytologist.

And now as he retires into a state of domesticity,
We wish for him a status of unparalleled felicity.
And yet we fear that, giving up a post of some authority,
He'll find at home he constitutes a very small minority.

In closing, as we pu aside all persiflage and levity,
We wish him health and happiness, and plenty of longevity.
We're hoping that he'll flourish as the hardiest perennial,
And stick around to celebrate his bi- or tri-centennial!

Note. These verses, to be sung to the tune of "The Major General" from Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance," were written by James M. Picken, then Editor of the Bureau of Plant Industry, and were used at an informal reception given to Dr. Taylor in his office at the Bureau on the occasion of his retirement from the Federal Service.

In jesting about Dr. Taylor's ability to distinguish an Adam's apple from a York Imperial, Mr. Pickens probably did not know that in the early days of his service the York Imperial apple figured in a bit of hazing of Dr. Taylor by his colleagues.

Some of the members of the scientific staff rigged up a little test to determine his knowledge of pomological matters. A series of not-too-easy questions was worked out and the various members of the staff maneuvered to meet Dr. Taylor alone here and there and put these questions to him. Later they compared notes. It had been impossible to trip Dr. Taylor up on any of the questions, one of which related to the origin of the York Imperial apple. This will probably be Dr. Taylor's first knowledge of having passed successfully a second "Civil Service" examination!

[illegible]

September 11, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

The United States of America represented the scope of your contributions during the many years of your activity in the Department of Agriculture. Now that you have no longer to answer the call of the alarm clock each weekday morning, it might also well serve as your permanent mailing address--a citizen of the U.S.A.!

Things have changed in Washington--"for better or for worse;" for better, we hope. At least there are a lot more of us and the set-up becomes more and more complicated as the months and years pass by. What the cessation of the war will do to us, only the future can tell. At any rate those of us of the "Old Guard"--I think I may be included in that category, since I entered the Department in mid-1908--who are still left here are pegging away trying to do our bit to "help win the war."

It being my assumption that you want to hear something about "us," may I refresh your memory with a personal reference: After leaving Dr. Erwin F. Smith's office on July 1, 1924, I was with the National Research Council for a year and a half; from January 1, 1926 to July 1, 1929, Associate Editor of Biological Abstracts at Philadelphia; then to mid-1935 in charge of its Washington office, and from that point on to the present date I've been on the staff of the Office of Experiment Stations--so much for statistics. At present I am handling almost all the abstracting for the Experiment Station Record that has to do with meteorology, botany, plant diseases, economic zoology, and economic entomology. For the last ~~two~~ or more years I have written the mimeographed Quarterly Report on the War Activities of OES and the State and Territorial Experiment Stations--a pamphlet averaging 25 to 30 pages. These have constituted the major portion of my work, along with a lot of miscellaneous activities. I manage to keep busy!

I'm still interested in life and work and in my old associates--most of the latter are now at Beltsville or on the retired list--and I have lots of plans for the future. As Dr. L. E. Bailey remarked at the last annual dinner of the Botanical Society of Washington: "That's what keeps us going."

We had a retirement in OES on July 31 last. Miss Katherine Nau had been with the organization for 45 years and for many years had had charge of proof reading and make-up for all the publications of the Bureau--yes, we are now one of the six "research bureaus" of the Agricultural Research Administration! Mrs. C. E. Johnston--chief clerk of the organization at the time Miss Nau entered the service in 1899, and now retired and living in Hollywood--sent the following poem dedicated to the occasion and which we read at Miss Nau's "coming out" party. I thought you might enjoy it, as did all of us here. And here it is!

TO KATHERINE APPOLONIA NAU
On her 45th anniversary in OES.

Katherine by name, but we'd no sooner seen her
Than quite without reason we called her Katrina.
A good scout she was, as we knew from the start,
And OES took her right home to its heart.

And now we welcome her into our crew--
A non-labor union with nothing to do;
It's an open shop, no dues to pay;
No strikes, no pickets, no 8-hour day;
No alarm clocks to shatter our night-time dreams,
And time to go shopping for chocolate creams.
Taking the air at our own sweet will,
With all the time in the world to kill.
Matinees! Radio! Life that's free
In the great new world that is soon to be.

She came when wondrous events were pending,
Just as the Nineteenth Century was ending,
The Gay Nineties going out with a whirl--
With cotton hose and the Gibson Girl!
We dumb Victorians never heard
Of what seems now the commonest word--
Such as whoopee, hokum, flapper and vamp,
Vacuum cleaner, electric lamp,
Screen star, movies, radio sets,
Chain stores, blocs, and Drys and Wets.

Distant now the prohibition age,
With its speakeasies, hijackers, bootlegger's rage;
Votes for women were a comic theme;
No income tax disturbed our dream.
No permanent wave or bobby socks,
No bobbed hair or electric clocks,
No ladies smoking cigarettes,
No crossword puzzles or usherettes;
No ragtime, lipsick, or parcel post,
No Boy Scouts, their good deeds to boast.

No fireless cooker or ice cream cone,
No washing machine or telephone;
We went swimming in heavy clothes,
There were no bathing beauties, no silken hose.
What did those poor Victorians do
To pass the time--I ask of you?

Of a horseless carriage, tall tales were told,
Such foolish talk! It left us cold;
It sounded remote as the Planet Mars,
As we rode content in our horse-drawn cars.
We were swathed in clothes from head to feet;
But the skirts we wore that swept the street
Seemed to us then ultra stylish and neat.
And whether our size was sixes or twos,
We wore those atrocious high-buttoned shoes.

In fashion's field there was quite a rustle
When Mrs. Cleveland discarded her bustle.
Gossip raged from every rafter,
But the bustle was doomed forever after.

Oh! the sights and the songs we have seen and sung
Through life's cavalcade since we were young!

But with Peace in the offing, though seen afar,
The Twentieth Century shines as a star!
With strange new blessings it has teemed,
And miracles greater than we had dreamed.

But with all of the changes that Time has unrolled,
The skies are still blue and the sunsets are gold.
Rich in life are the years that roll by,
With no limit on annual leave but the sky;
So with spirits undaunted and hearts that are gay--
"Old Time is a liar!--we're twenty today!"

I like the last stanza, and especially the last two lines; let's live them!

It has occurred to me that you might be interested in seeing regularly our current semi-monthly publication of information (past and present) on the Department-- "USDA". I took the liberty of asking its editor--Mr. T. Swann Harding--about it, and found that hitherto this sheet is sent only to present employees of the Department but that steps are under way to make it available to others. I gave him your address, and he said that he had some material that he would send you at once and would let you know of future developments on USDA.

I thoroughly enjoyed hearing about you recently through Mr. C. A. Reed; to expression of pleasant memories of the past may I add heartiest best wishes for your future.

Most sincerely yours,

(Frederick V. Rand)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I want to add my word of congratulation to you. I have many pleasant recollections of my association with you through the work of Mr. Fisher's section, at times when my part in it came particularly to your attention. I think I remember best your review and criticism--from which I learned a lot--of "claim" letters which I wrote for your signature. We still have such letters to write but not as many as there were a few years ago. I don't know the reason for the change. Possibly the shippers and railroad claim agents are better informed now. Please accept my best wishes for your continued good health, and many more years of pleasant living.

(Dean H. Rose)

U. S. Department of Agriculture



1938

1868-1930

Dear Doctor Taylor:

Although I never had the pleasure of talking with you in person, I have very pleasant recollections of your interest and helpful comments by telephone at the time when I was preparing the manuscript for the first edition of the bulletin on the flowering cherries. These "Japanese" cherries, as you may know, are now generally called "Oriental" flowering cherries, for reasons of both fact and sentiment.

I appreciate very much the opportunity of including my greetings with those of the fortunate persons who knew you more intimately.

Sincerely yours,

(Paul Russell)

Oct 17, 1931

CURTIS AIDS NUT-TREE PROJECT

Vice President Curtis on October 5 headed a party of about 50 people, including 18 Boy Scouts from Takoma Park, Md., and Alexandria, Va., Scout troop leaders, several officials of the department, and representatives of the American Forestry Association, on a trip to Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate, to inaugurate the year's harvest of black walnuts as a part of the annual program of what is known as the national nut-tree planting project, in the sponsorship of which the department has had a prominent part.

At Mount Vernon, after sounding of bugle call by Scout Phil Turner, of Takoma, whose father, R. A. Turner, is in the Extension Service, and recital of Joyce Kilmer's famous poem, On a Tree, by Ellidge Allanson, son of H. E. Allanson, assistant chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, talks were made by the Vice President; Dr. A. F. Woods, director of scientific work; and Dr. W. A. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Vice President Curtis strongly indorsed the project, saying that he hoped the goal of 2,000 bushels of seed walnuts distributed from historic grounds would be reached this year. He urged Boy Scouts to have as their motto "Friendship for all who need help, but our own country first." Director Woods said that the department was glad to cooperate with the others who share in managing the project and asked department people everywhere to give all possible aid in promoting its objects. Doctor Taylor briefly reviewed the history of the project, stating that it was a step toward encouraging the planting and preserving of trees, in contrast with the cutting and destroying of trees in Washington's time.

This project, which is now of world-wide character—as walnuts from Mount Vernon, furnished by the project, were sent by the Department of State last year to 40 foreign countries for planting on American embassy and legation grounds—was developed in the Bureau of Plant Industry. It is controlled by a council of four members, three of whom are now or have been in the department. The chairman is C. A. Reed, nut culturist in the division of horticultural crops and diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry; the treasurer, G. H. Collingwood, forester of the American Forestry Association, was formerly extension forester of the department; and a third member, O. H. Benson, now director of rural scouting, national Boy Scout headquarters, New York City, was formerly in charge of 4-H club work for the department in the North and West.











WAT-46

"GINKO AVENUE." -- The famous avenue of Ginko trees that lined 13th Street leading to the old red brick building of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. These were transplanted to other parts of the grounds when the new building was erected. The transplanting in general was very successful.



Enlargement of central portion of group picture of Plant Industry Employees
at Washington, D.C., taken October 30, 1922.



1906. Secretary Wilson and some members of his staff photographed on the steps of the Department Building.

Bottom row: Ralph Graves, Forest Service; Milton Whitney, Soils; W. M. Hayes, Asst. Secretary; Secretary Wilson; Willis Moore, Weather Bureau; and J. A. Arnold, Publications.

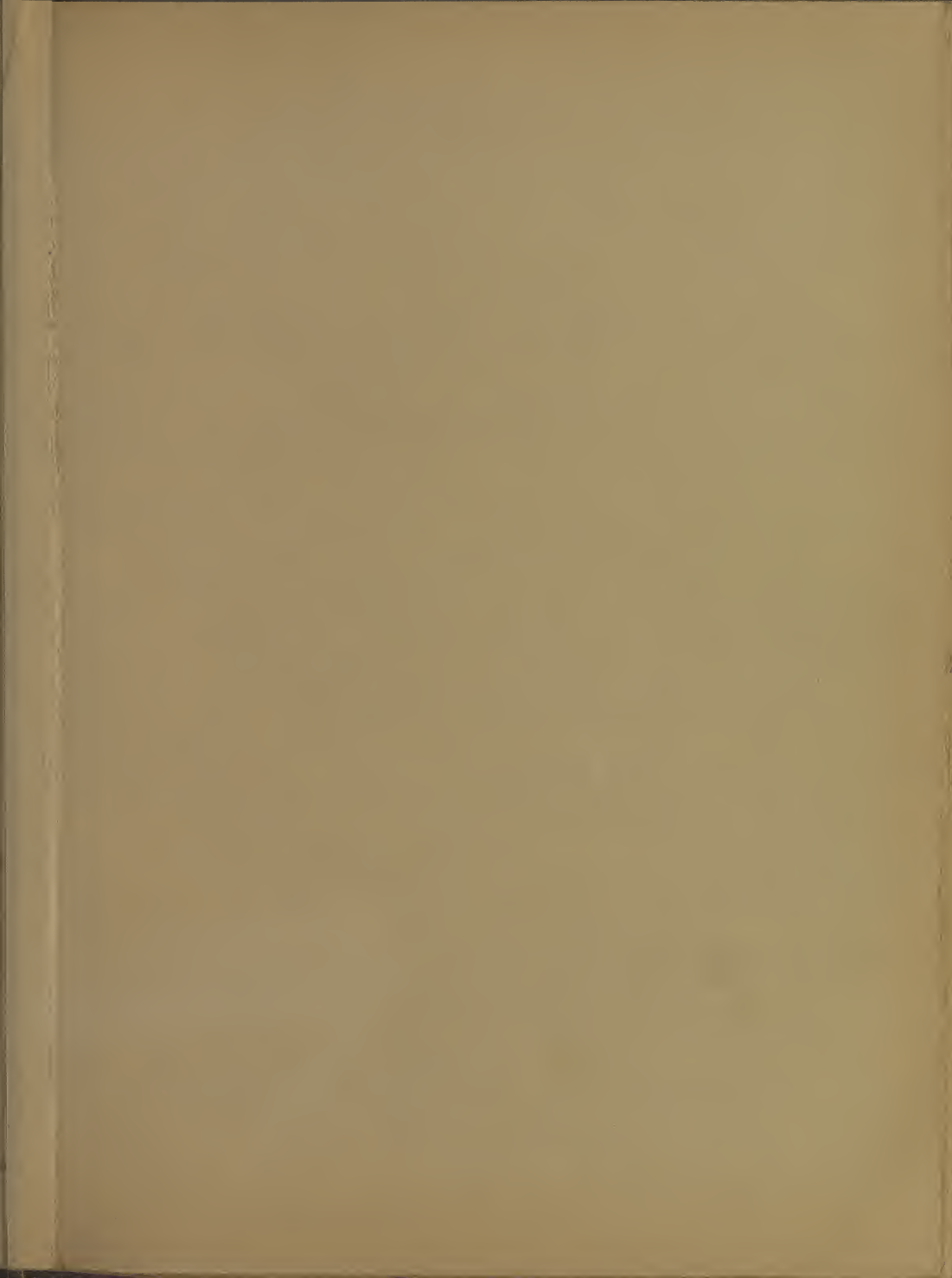
Second row: W. P. Jones, Solicitor; L. O. Howard, Entomology; H. W. Henshaw, Biological Survey; A. C. True, Experiment Stations; A. D. Melvin, Animal Industry; B. T. Galloway, Plant Industry.

Third row: C. C. Clark, Chief Clerk of Department; Carl Alberg, Chemistry; Logan Waller Page, Public Roads; A. Zappone, Accounts; Victor Olmstead, Statistics; C. B. Lower, Supply Division

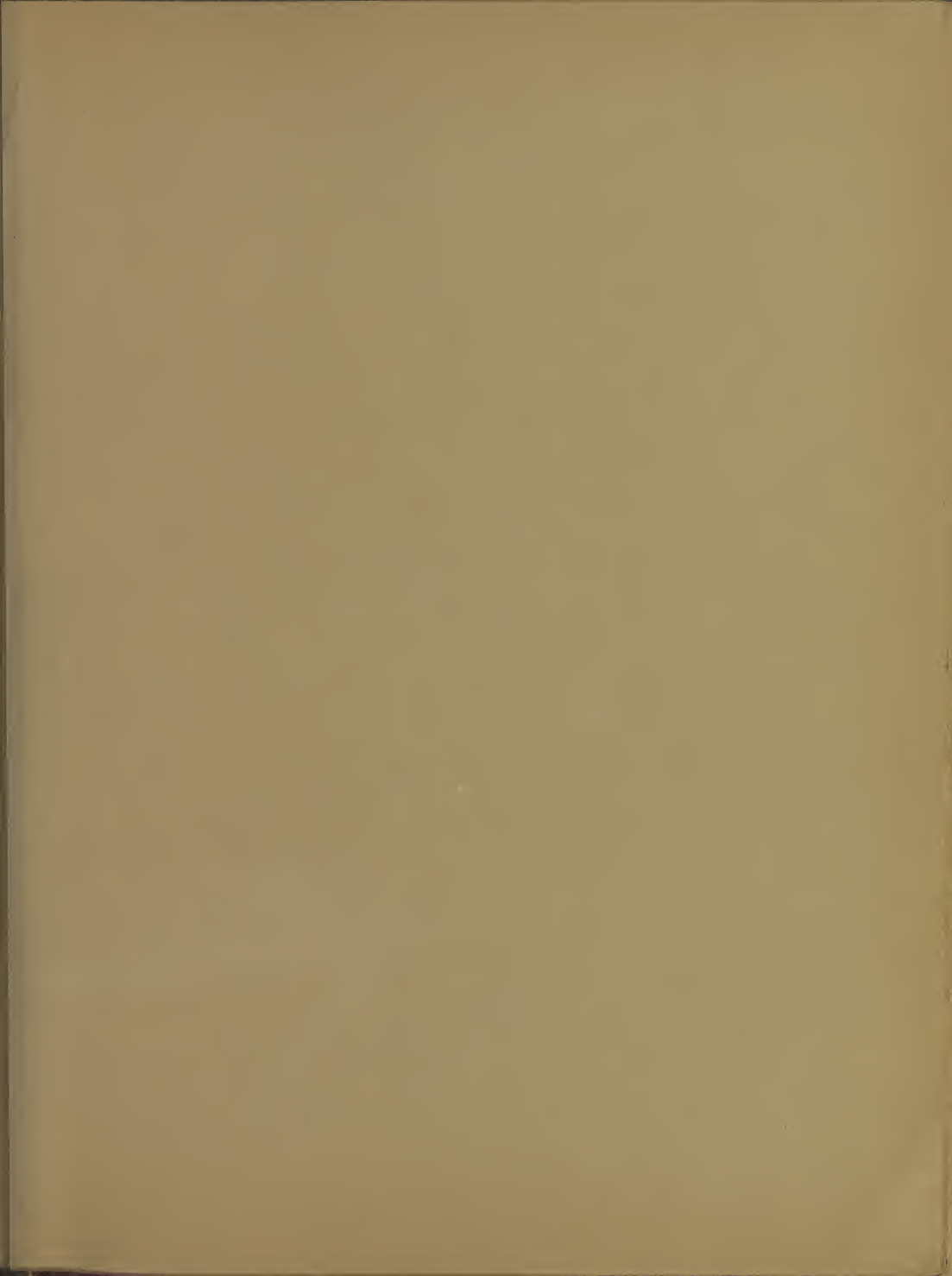






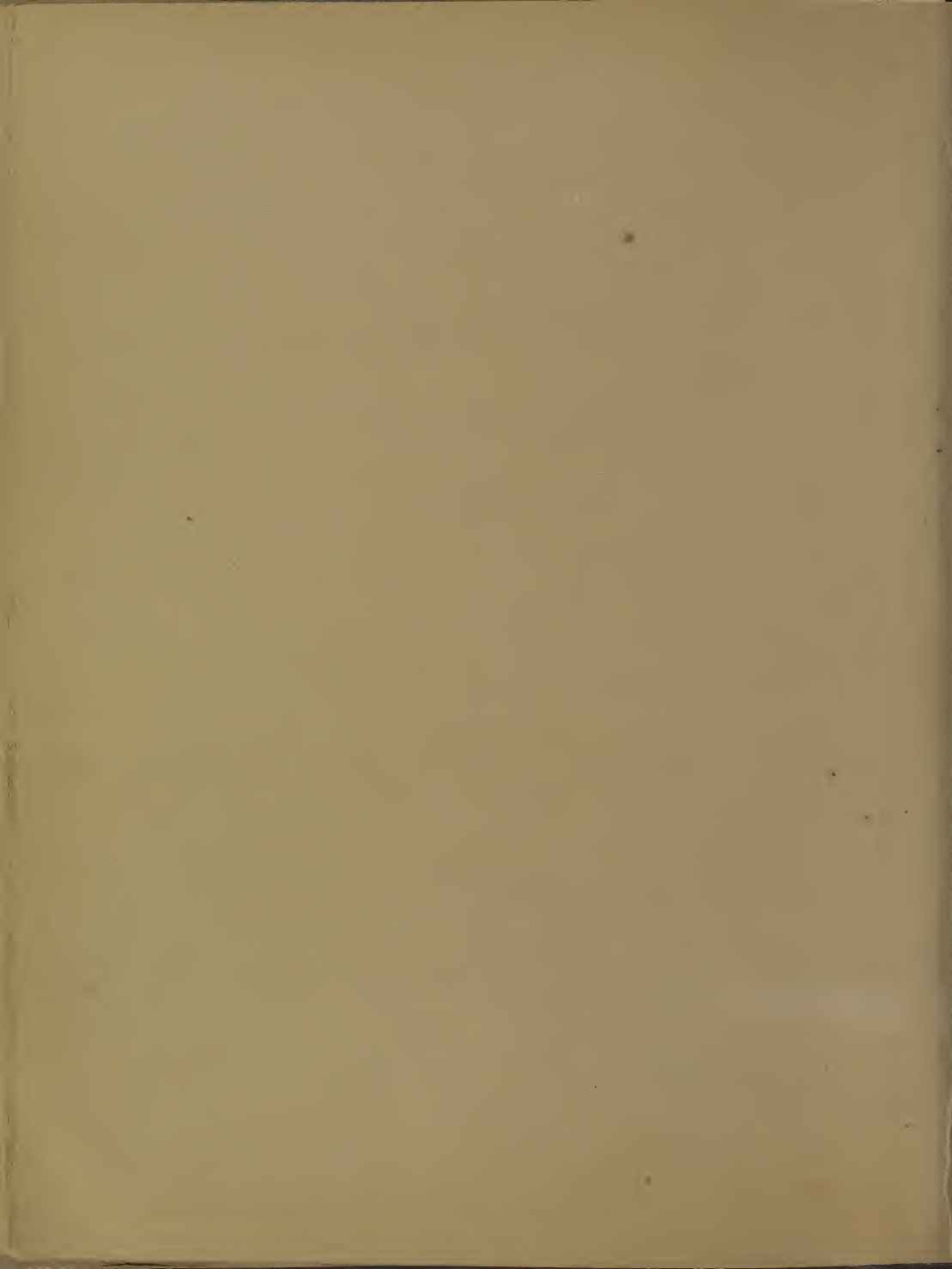












Dear Dr. Taylor:

Warmest greetings to you and your family. It was a real pleasure to me to see recent photographs of you and your family. I shall never forget the thoroughness and painstaking care you used in reviewing my manuscripts while you were carrying the heavy administrative burden of Chief of the Bureau. I always found your criticisms and suggestions very helpful and constructive.

Sincerely yours,

(William S. Porte)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Remember me? Mr. Reed just gave me an opportunity to see the recent picture of your family, and after seeing it, I want to add my "Hello!" to those that are being sent along to you.

Sincerely,

(Etta L. Rieser)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It was indeed nice to hear about you from Mr. Reed and to realize, through your picture, that you are still hale and hearty. I still remember how astonished I was when I told you that in applying for a patent on zinc-lime a man named Vannah had declared interference. I told you I did not know who he was, but you not only told me who he was but gave me what amounted to his life history. Not only was I astonished at the time but I still am. That wonderful memory of yours!

Dr. Waite would, I know, join me in this greeting but he is in Illinois helping to settle the estate of his recently deceased favorite sister. He is about as active as ever despite a recent tussle with the disease known as "shingles".

I hope you will accept this greeting as coming not only from a member of the staff of your old bureau but from one who holds you in high regard as a personal friend.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John W. Roberts



WHT-28

A group of Fruit Disease Investigations
employees, in 1911

1, A. C. Hall, head clerk; 2, Leonard Walson; 3, Clam H. Hasse, well known as the discoverer of the bacterium causing citrus canker; 4, Mrs. Margaret Marchmont (nee Hayden), who even in those days demonstrated bobbed hair and men-tailored costumes; 5, W. Ralph Jones; 6, Angie M. Beckwith; 7, S. W. McMurren; 8, Elizabeth Hurdle, who a year later, in 1912, married M. B. Waite; 9, F. V. Rand; 10, John W. Roberts; 11, Lon Hawkins; 12, J. Marion Hull; 13, Leslie Pierce; 14, L. H. Evans; 15, Errett Wallace; 16, W. M. Scott; 17, C. L. Shear; 18, M. B. Waite.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is a pleasure to join your other admirers with this reminder. I doubt whether you will remember me at all since I had very few direct conferences with you prior to, or during my 17 years as sugarcane pathologist under Dr. Brandes.

Since June 1940, I had had the privilege of again assisting the Department's rubber project which finally at that late date was greatly enlarged and placed under Dr. Brandes' direction. It is an extensive cooperative program with some 12 tropical American countries whose governments also have realized the need for an economical and dependable supply of natural rubber for both local and export use.

Thus far those countries have invested more than two millions, contrasted with about \$300,000 annually by this Department. Substantial progress has been made in developing blight-resistant clones and solving other problems. Small-farm planting, which can readily compete in a world market is actively progressing in a majority of the countries. In other words, we are now proceeding toward the precise objectives urged some 21 years ago. Now at last our dreams are materializing.

It is a pleasure to note from the photographs how lightly the fleeting years have touched you and I wish you many more of good health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

(R. D. Rands)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to offer my best wishes to you on your 51st birthday. Not all men are permitted to live and enjoy the fruits of a long and useful life in the service of science and humanity. Thus, you are truly to be congratulated. As "life holds no pleasure greater than that of friendship," I recall with much satisfaction your many friendly and helpful suggestions in the preparation of numerous manuscripts on oats.

I am rated as somewhat of an "old timer" in the Bureau, as I received my first temporary appointment as long ago as April 15, 1911.

Sincerely,

(T. Ray Stanton)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I have just seen the family group of pictures, and it revives many pleasant memories of my years of service with you, and recalls quite vividly to my mind your tolerance in overlooking some of my especially "bull-headed" actions.

Really, you do not look a day older than I do; and it is hard to believe that Billy is the same youngster that fell down the steps at Cheyenne--it seems scarcely six months ago! I wonder if Marie still produces those wonderful chocolate cakes!

I've been with Forest Pathology since 1941; blame Lee Hutchins for that. However, since I cut my baby teeth on white and Norway pine in Minnesota, the work here is almost within my orbit.

I'll tell Friend Wife that I saw the picture and pronounced it good. I include her greetings and best wishes with mine for years of continued happiness for you and yours.

(W. D. Roney)

Lanham, Maryland
October 19, 1944

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I was delighted to receive word of your continued good health from C. A. Reed on his return from a visit to you this past summer. Apparently you are enjoying your retirement. The recent picture of Mrs. Taylor, Billy and yourself expresses more than words your well being.

I have to report that I now have five grandchildren. They are all doing very well. Soon I too will be enjoying a retired status for on February 28, 1945 I make my adieu to the Department.

Many times since your leaving I have thought of you. It is with much pleasure that I look back to the days when you were with us here in the Department. I wish to express to you my very best wishes for your continued good health and happiness in the years to come.

Sincerely,

(C. S. Scofield)



ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

View of the Administrative Building at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. 1944. The North Wing may be seen at right; South Wing is at left (not shown in picture).

Division of Nematology
September 4, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

All of the staff members of the Division of Nematology send you greetings and sincerest good wishes. Several of the older employees who remember you well are still here, and a few new ones have been added. We now operate four field stations--Tipton? Ga.; Babylon, N. Y., Salt Lake City, Utah; and Sumner, Wash.

At the present time we are in the midst of constructing a nematorium here at Beltsville--a 1½ acre plot to be used for basic field experimental work--which includes tilled subdivisions, a tool house, provisions for steam sterilization of outside plats, a fumigation chamber and overhead watering.

Various new and serious nematode pests have come into the foreground besides our old root-knot nematode. You will be interested to know that an extensive survey was made this summer for the golden nematode of potatoes, in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, which covered the potato growing regions from Maine to Minnesota. The survey fortunately disclosed no infestation by this particularly serious pest, in this country, other than the initial spot on Long Island, discovered in 1941. The survey did prove, however, the widespread occurrence of the root-knot nematode on potato plantings throughout the northern states, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and states adjoining them on the south. Thus recognition of the importance of nematodes is also slowly invading the field of plant nematology.

Most sincerely yours,

G. Steiner, Jesse R. Christie,
Martha Wooton, John H. Machmer,
Florence E. Albini, Civella A. Chambliss,
Edna M. Buhrer

Dear Dr. Taylor:

There have been numerous changes since you were our leader. The old Division of Soil Bacteriology is now only a section in the Division of Soil and Fertilizer Investigations. We have only three professional employees, two of us (L. T. Leonard and myself) having stuck on the job.

Although I have not seen you or Mrs. Taylor in some years, we have from time to time heard of you and sometimes even seen photographs taken of one or both of you. A recent one by Clarence A. Reed proves to us that you and the family are in excellent physical condition, and that the younger generation has outstripped the older in height at least!

Best personal regards to you and Mrs. Taylor.

Very truly yours,

(Nathan R. Smith)

Chevy Chase, Md., September 1, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

It was a pleasure to hear through Mr. C. A. Reed that you are in good health and spirits, fully enjoying these years of retirement from the active life which was yours in the Bureau. I too retired in January after completing the inauguration of some new permanent plot experiments in soil management, involving many farm practices and crop rotations, in all about 150 1/4 acre plots on the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Md. and the constructing and inauguration of 100 cement walled soil frames for the study of plant nutrition and fertilizer problems under controlled soil conditions. I am still helping in this work by weekly visits to the farm and laboratory as Collaborator.

On the home front I am also giving considerable time by helping the local rationing board in association with Mr. A. McClure Ashley, formerly with the Department and known to you, and with Mr. Thomas Robertson, former Commissioner of Patents, now also retired. I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement from active service and manage to keep about as busy as usual with the above duties and my garden and house work.

I hope that we may have the pleasure of seeing you again in Washington in the not distant future, and have the opportunity to show you the new set-up here at Beltsville. My most pleasant memories concern the time of our close association in developing the soil fertility research activities in the Bureau and I look back with pleasure to this intimate association with you.

May I wish you many more happy years of life with your family.

Sincerely,

(Oswald Schreiner)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I wish to add my tribute to the others being written.

I am sorry that I did not have the pleasure of seeing you at Columbus. It is good to hear that you are well and happy, and enjoying your well earned retirement. I am still plugging along with the fungi as Collaborator, and spending the winters in Florida. Why don't you come down sometime?

I have many pleasant recollections of working with you, and of your kind and sympathetic support and advice in connection with our pathological and mycological work. Wishing you and yours long life, and happiness, and hoping to see you again sometime, I am, most cordially yours,

(C. L. Shear)



Dr. A. G. Johnson examines a corn stalk in search of possible scab fungus.



Secretary of Agriculture Henry Agard Wallace, himself a corn breeder, with an exhibit of Indian corn prepared by the Bureau of Plant Industry for the Century of Progress Exposition. The ears on the panel represent kinds grown by various tribes of American Indians. In contrast to these uneven, many colored ears is the improved ear that the Secretary holds. This ear is the result of many years of careful, painstaking work by corn breeders in the Bureau.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

September 23, 1944

Mr. Reed has told me of his recent visit with you and I am very glad to hear of your good health and that you are enjoying life. We, the older members of the staff, look back on the years of your administration of the Bureau with a good bit of pleasure. Time has developed many changes. We, as you know, are out at Beltsville, which is quite different from the surroundings in the Department Building at Washington. There are some inconveniences but on the whole there are many advantages of being in the country. I trust you may visit us here and when you do, drop in to see me. I want to express appreciation of the privilege of having worked under your guidance. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Joshua J. Skinner)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Greetings and good wishes!

Here at Chevy Chase I am still playing about in my garden, producing new varieties of Iris and Daylilies and getting a lot of fun out of it-- painting them too on occasion as I used to do.

And I'm not forgetting that it was you who looked through my drawings and sent me on to Dr. Galloway who in turn sent me up to Dr. Waite and thereby began for me many years of service filled with satisfying experiences.

I would not have asked for a finer lot of people to work with, and for associates, than those I found in the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Kindest regards to you and yours and best of good wishes for the future.

Most sincerely yours,

(J. Marion Shull)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Greetings to you and the family!

I am particularly glad to see the recent fine photograph of "you-all" by my friend Clarence Reed. It is always a pleasure to hear of you, as I occasionally do through Mr. Reed, and to know that you keep so active.

And, incidentally, it gives me added hope that I also may enjoy a goodly number of years of work, recreation, and health after I go out, which will now not be so long.

Sincerely,

(R. A. Young)

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Well, some of us are still attempting to do business with the fungi, but they have changed "stands" on us. Beltsville is all right, once we get out here, although we miss our library and Smithsonian contacts. The herbarium is on the ground floor of north building. For the first time in many years the herbarium proper is assembled in large part in one large room, 80 feet long with two wings 40 feet across. The flowering plant herbarium occupies similar areas on the two floors above, as that it is relatively easy to get at Blake and his associates for host determinations. Forest Pathology adjoins us in part. We have about finished curating the collections of Hedgcock and others of the early collectors of that Division making a large distinct unit of the Bureau collections. The American Tropics are pouring in an increasing array of fungi so we have no difficulties in keeping out of mischief.

I am very glad to have had this opportunity to send a word of greeting and hope you can visit us sometime.

Sincerely,

/s/ John A. Stevenson

Takoma Park, D. C. Sept. 12, 1944

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Although we are not correspondents, I do hear from you more frequently than you are aware. Every time I meet Porter one of my first inquiries is "How is your father?" And, of course, every time C. A. Reed visits you I get first-hand information concerning your health and activities.

You will be interested to learn that Mrs. Stuart was born on the same day, month and year as yourself, a fact that I had not known until a few moments ago when I looked up your sketch in "Who's Who in the Nation's Capital."

My first acquaintance with you was at the AAAS meeting held at Washington in 1902. Your courteous treatment of me when serving as Assistant Chief and later as Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, will never be forgotten.

With sincere good wishes,

(Wm. Stuart)



Dr. Robert M. Salter
Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and
Agricultural Engineering, 1942--



WAT-29 a-b

Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

Top, general view of offices and laboratories. Center, Administrative Building, with north wing (right) and south wing (left). The north wing was the only office and laboratory building at the station for some years. To the extreme right of the photograph is seen a portion of the North Building; and to the extreme left a portion of the South Building. To the left and just back of the south wing may be seen a portion of the Soils Building. The West Building, very much like the north wing in appearance, is directly back of the south wing. Bottom, a close-up view of the Administrative Building.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

CITRUS EXPERIMENT STATION
DIVISION OF ORCHARD MANAGEMENT
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1944

Dr. W. A. Taylor
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Taylor:

Your influence upon the horticulture of California and other fruit growing districts while you were Pomologist and later the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, was an important and beneficial one. In California, your contribution to the improvement of the horticultural industry of that state was made possible by (1) your selection and the encouragement of the men to carry on research on many problems, and (2) to your natural sympathy and understanding with fruit growers in their efforts to discover the causes of their troubles and to find practical remedies for their faulty practices. In this connection, I need only to mention your association with the widely known contribution of your colleague, the late Dr. H. Harold Loggell, to the California Citrus industry.

In this brief, personal tribute to you I would like to emphasize my own feelings toward you. My mind was always at rest under your administration through an innate sense of dependence upon your kindly sympathy, your intelligent consideration of my problems and your helpful suggestions from time to time. It was only under such circumstances that I could have carried out successfully our studies on bud selection, air-conditioning in lemon storage rooms, Citrus tree pruning and wiring practices, and other horticultural problems.

Then, as now, I thank God that my life work was largely carried on under your administration. I want you to know how deeply I have appreciated your kindly personal interest and your generous helpfulness during the most important period of my life. Your kindly attitude toward your colleagues was an inherent one which was soon recognized and well-known to all with whom you were associated. Your honest, clear, logical and constructive mind was of fundamental aid to all of us fortunate enough to come within your beneficent influence. Upon this solid foundation for the Bureau of Plant Industry the work of the Bureau, during your connection with it, accomplished the most important and valuable research results in history of agriculture, in my opinion.

Now I congratulate you on your character, your life work and on the love and appreciation given you by all your associates.

Very truly yours,

A. D. Shamel
A. D. Shamel



TO HONOR
MRS. ELIZA T. LEETS,
AND TO RECORD HER GOOD WORK
IN PLANTING AT FULLBROOK, N. Y.,
THE FIRST WASHINGTON
NAVEL ORANGE TREES
IN CALIFORNIA.
NATIVE TO BAKA, BRAZIL,
PROVIDE THE MOST VALUABLE
FRUIT INTRODUCTION YET MADE BY
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
1920

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXTENSION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 25, 1944

Dr. W. A. Taylor
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Taylor:

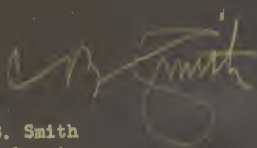
Clarence Reed reports that he saw you recently in Columbus and that you were feeling fine. This is just a note to let you know we miss you around here. Old timers are scarce these days in the Department of Agriculture and it is an event to meet one in the halls.

We all had a feeling when you were here that you stood for the best in Organization and Administration and rarely concerned yourself with what is the strategy of the situation. There was something stable and sure about life, and politics was not a dominating thought. We hope the best of the old days may come back again. I suppose that is the trouble with us old men. We look back to what was instead of forward to the new day.

In looking back to what was, you will always stand out as one of the capable, straightforward men of integrity, whose counsel was sound, whose word was good, and who had the respect of his colleagues. And that is about the most satisfying thing that I know of that can be said of a man when life's battle is over and days of retirement come.

I hope to see you some day in Michigan and talk over old days. Till then, best wishes and highest regards.

Sincerely,



C. B. Smith
Collaborator

September 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The grapevine brings the news that many of your old friends are dropping letters into a kind of community post bag, which is going to be sent for your opening one day soon.

Since I'm one of the "oldest," not in point of age but in span of acquaintance, I certainly appreciate being allowed to send a word too. For I think our acquaintance began when I was in long dresses, not the modern swingskirts but the kind of long dresses that babies no longer wear. My memory is not very clear on the exact date, but it was when father was pomologist for the U.S.D.A. You came to be his assistant, didn't you--you and "Uncle" Newt Irwin. Anyway you two and Mr. Galloway are the three I seem to place earliest.

I shall never forget yours and Mrs. Taylor's kindness then and for many years after.

It's been fun to see Porter and work with him occasionally, through there's never been time to stop and exchange reminiscences.

Recently I was in Ithaca, N. Y. and had a delightful visit with the Baileys--Dr. Liberty Hyde and Ethel, his daughter who has aided her father in his literary and botanical work ever since her graduation from college. We were classmates at Smith and have been good friends ever since. One of the chief memories I brought home from this visit was of Dr. Bailey, sitting at his table in his herbarium in the evening, with sheets of rubus spread out about him and the electric light shining down on his head. Pretty good for an 86 year old.

And I hope you're very well yourself and finding much to interest you and to enjoy these days.

The grapevine also says you'd be interested in having pictures of some of us old friends. So I'm enclosing one taken at the microphone a year or two ago during a broadcast on the Farm and Home Hour when it was a daily program. I think I'm the "oldest survivor" in that program. I've been on it continuously since 1932. And we are sorry that we can give you news of the U.S.D.A. through that medium only once a week now - Saturday. But time marches on and changes are bound to come.

If you and Father could review together what has happened in pomology since you both started the work, think what a story that would be.

Good wishes to you and "Long May You Wave!"

Sincerely yours,

(Ruth Van Deman)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and
Agricultural Engineering

Beltsville, Maryland

Mycology and Disease Survey

August 4, 1944

Dr. William A. Taylor
30 Berkeley Place
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Doctor Taylor:

It was a great pleasure to have some news of you through Mr. Reed. Some of us who have known you and Mrs. Taylor through the years were more happy than you know to see the pictures which Mr. Reed showed us and when we saw yours, it made us feel that it could not possibly have been ten years since you left our Bureau.

You may have forgotten me. I was chief clerk of the Plant Disease Survey during Doctor Lyman's day and since the union of Mycological Collections and the Survey, I have held the same position.

I can assure you that we have thought of you many times and remember you and Mrs. Taylor with a great deal of pleasure. I recall many details of your administration of our Bureau interests which made me regard you highly, - no other characteristic more impressed me than your integrity. How our Federal Government needs men like you today!

It would be a pleasure for all of us who were under your wing to have you visit our nice new Station at Beltsville. I have probably enjoyed being out here more than the average Plant Industry worker for I love nature and have come out on the 6:30 bus many mornings during spring and summer in order to have a round with the birds of which there are many, among the rare ones are the blue grosbeak, the evening grosbeak, the bobolink, many warblers and the horned larks nesting and raising their young right outside our door. They call me the "bird girl" out here. Incidentally, I have improvised a little feeding station out my window and the song and chipping sparrows are fed each morning with no charge to my annual leave. My trek daily on the Trailways or Greyhound has not hurt me a bit. The good folks of my Division are most thoughtful to give me a ride home when there is a vacancy in the car pool. I find it a lot nicer to be an "Orphan Annie" for then I know how nice it is to enjoy such favors.

With my warm regards for both you and Mrs. Taylor and also for that fine son, I am,

Very sincerely,

/s/ Mary G. Van Meter

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Plant Industry

Division of
Mycology and Disease Survey

Bureau of Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland
August 4, 1944

Dear Doctor Taylor:

I am glad to have an opportunity to contribute something to this pool of missives. It happened that only yesterday one of your former co-workers was asking me about your present location and state of health, and I was fortunately able to give him some information since I had heard about you from Mr. Reed just two days before. The inquirer was Mr. David Lumsden, who is enjoying his own period of retirement while growing orchids in association with Doctor McPeck on the old Fairchild estate in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

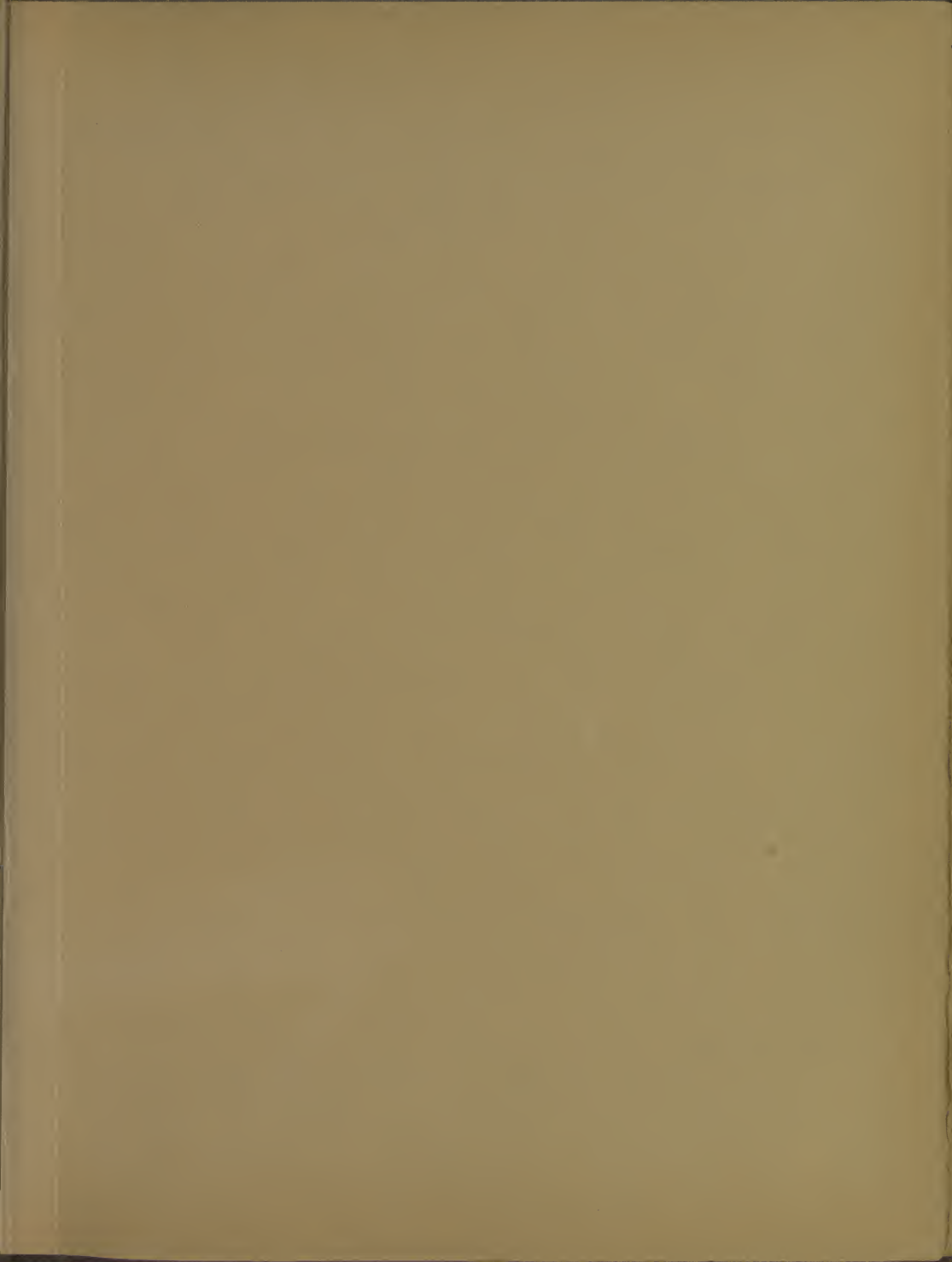
My own visit there had to do with the propagation of azaleas. Dr. E. A. Merritt, who now occupies the one-time David Fairchild place, has acquired the entire stock of hybrid azaleas that were produced by Mr. Chisholm when he had his florist business at Kensington, and I am the junior partner in the development of this stock. There are a number of very fine varieties, which in general appear to be superior in one respect or another - color, floriferousness, hardiness, etc. - to the existing series of Kurume and Kaempferi types of azaleas. Dr. Merritt has applied a set of names of local interest to them, and in addition to the original plants we have a stock of several hundred cuttings of each variety already worked up, and this summer will propagate them in much larger numbers. Washington and vicinity may soon be prominent on the azalea map in company with such places as Charleston, S. C., Mobile, Ala., the Arnold Arboretum, and others.

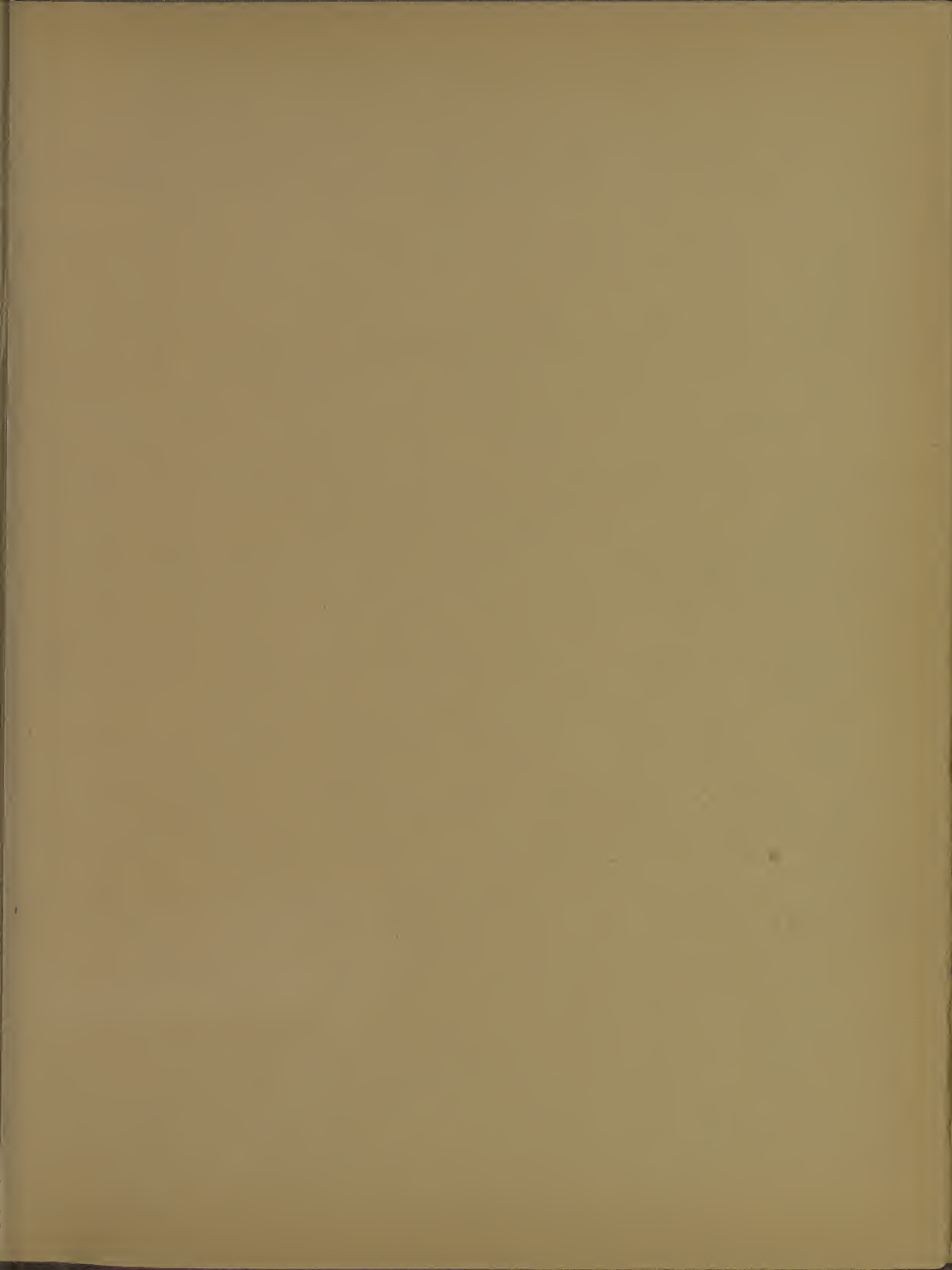
Although the new Bureau of Plant Industry station at Beltsville, Md. is so large and so complete in equipment and personnel that we are almost overwhelmed by its immensity and complexity, there are a number of us who recall with great pleasure those unharried days in the West Wing, and at Arlington Farm, Virginia, when somehow we seemed to accomplish more. Perhaps it was due to the relatively untroubled general state of the times, or perhaps because the agricultural research field was then not so crowded. Now it seems that there is always someone else who is standing on one's toes, or sometimes his neck. In the last analysis that person always proves to be an editor or some kind of publicity man!

At any rate, we are unanimous in remembering the kind personality and the dignified, constructive leadership of our then Chief of the Bureau, yourself. We are glad to know that you are enjoying life in general and good health in particular, and we hope that this beneficent sunset will linger with you for years.

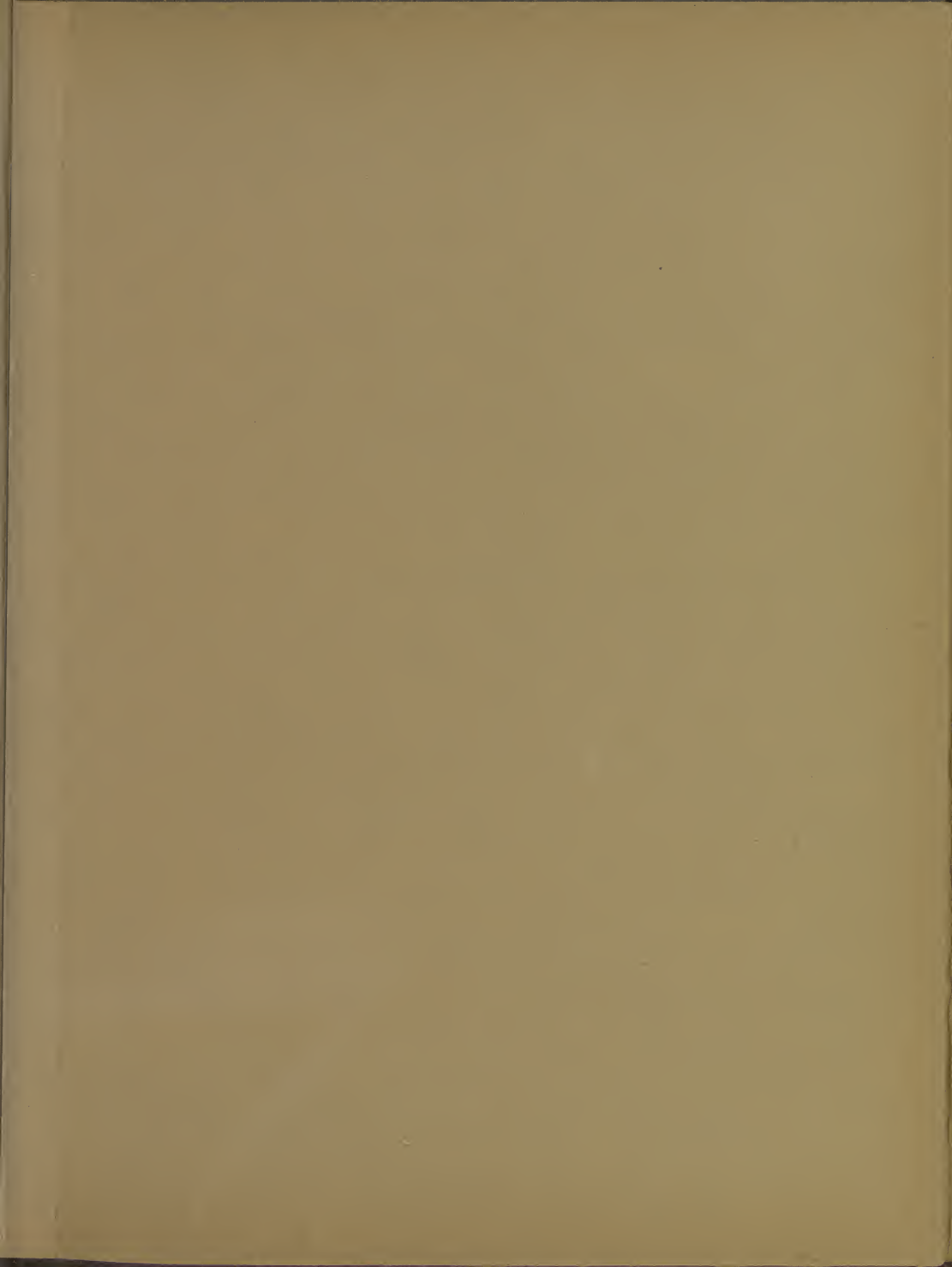
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Freeman Weiss

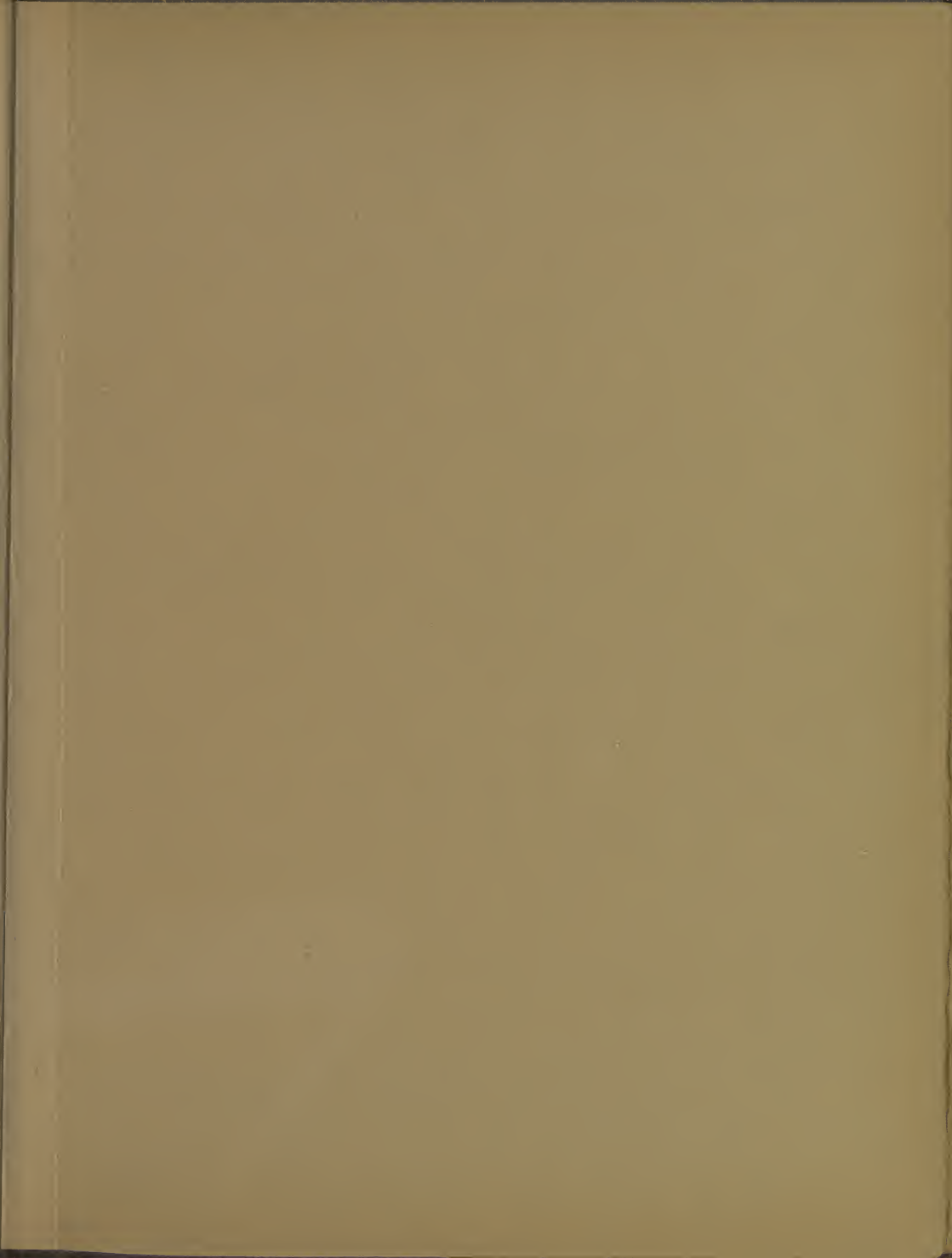


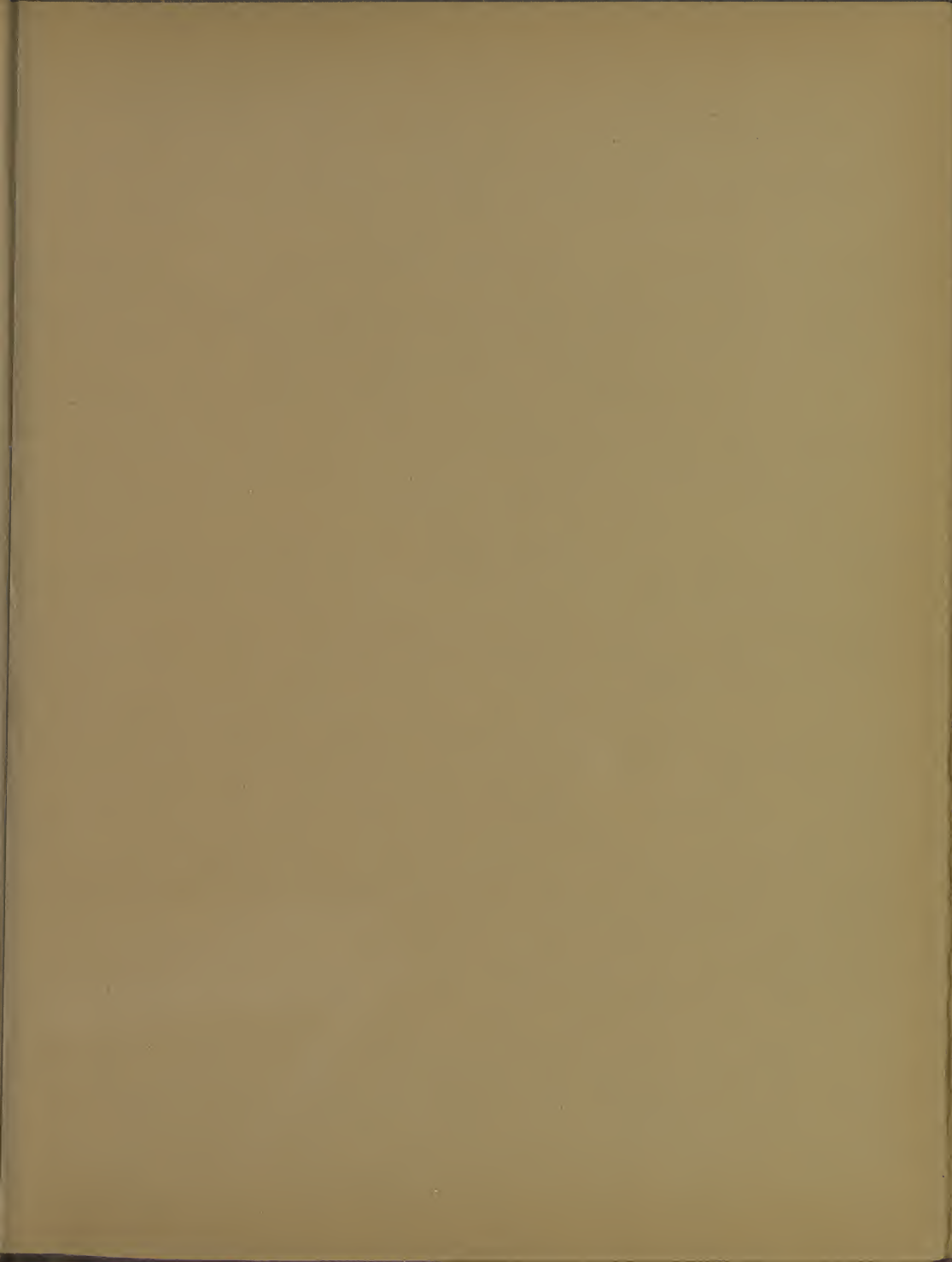


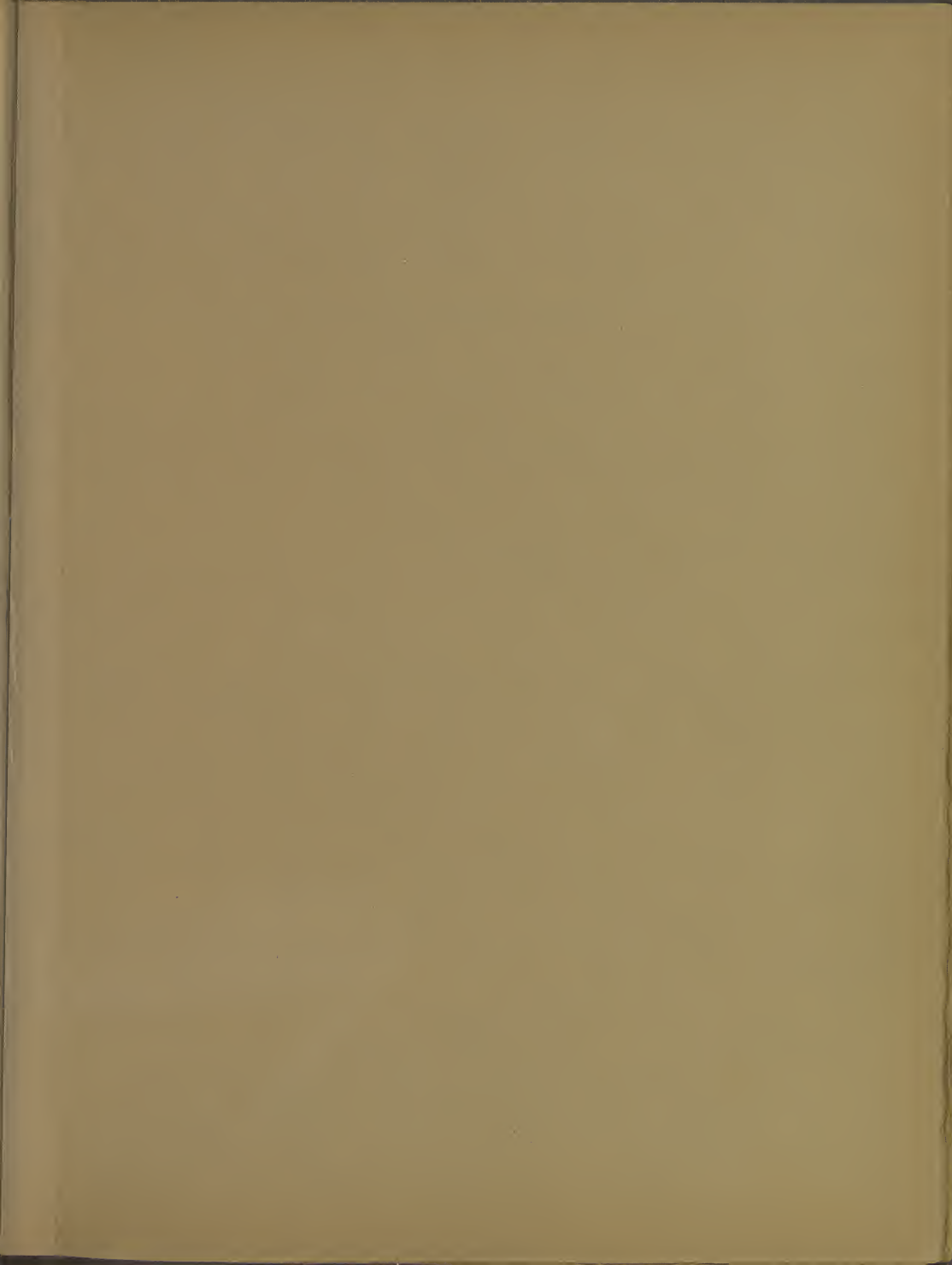


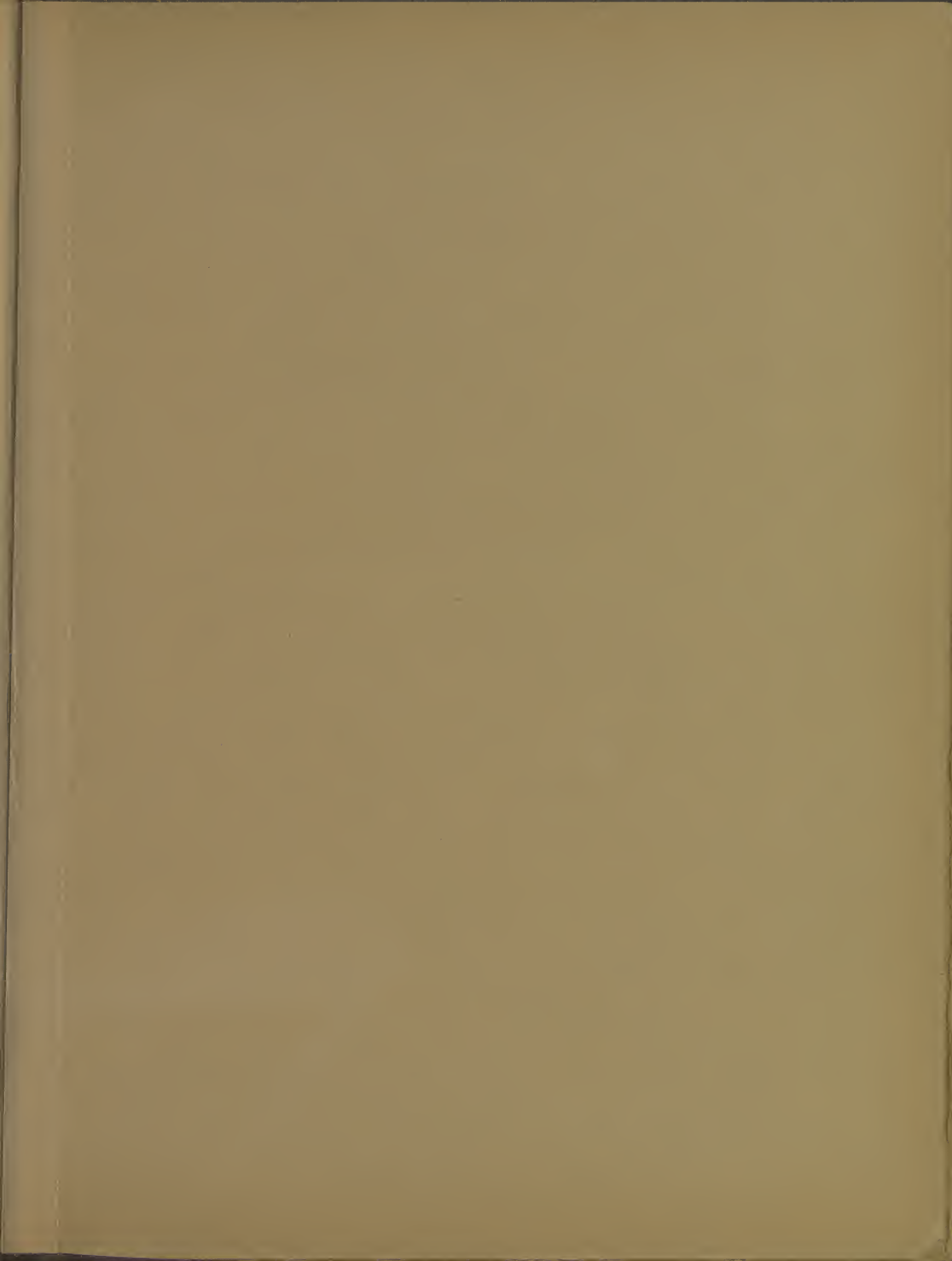


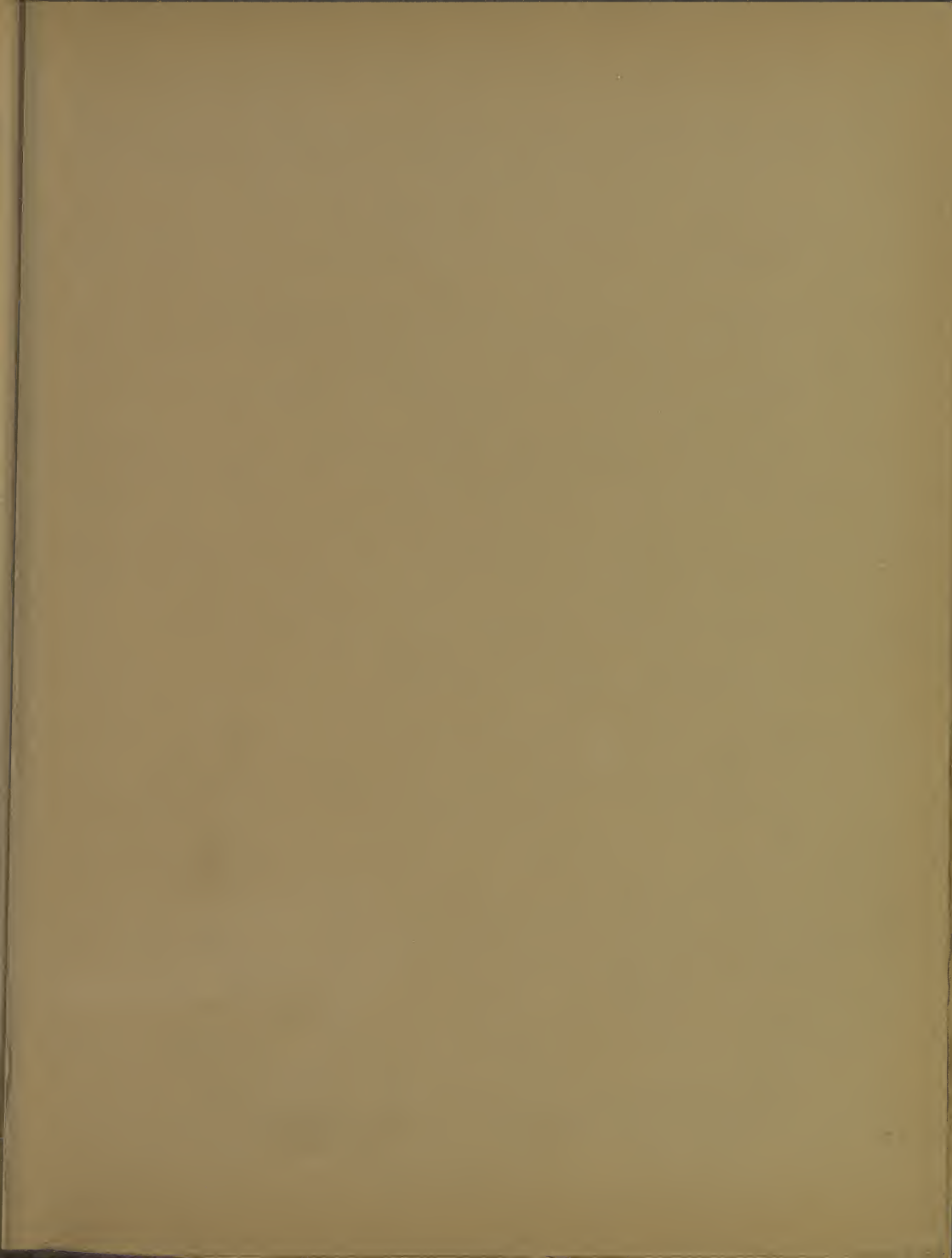












My dear Dr. Taylor:

May I add my felicitations to those of many friends in the United States Department of Agriculture?

What satisfaction you must enjoy when looking back in retrospection to the grand accomplishments in your chosen field of research!

I hope many pleasures may be added to the full years that have made an active life a n invaluable one to science.

Very sincerely,

(Flora Wilson)*

*Daughter of former Secretary of Agriculture
James Wilson.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

You will be interested to know that St. Medard cherry have a nice crop at the Station this year.

With all the changes a few years have brought about many other things, remind me of your interest in the nursery work at Arlington Farm and Bell and the high esteem all of us continue to hold for you.

/s/ Guy E. Yerkes

Dear Doctor Taylor:

You will not know me, but it may be a satisfaction to be reminded in this way that more people than are numbered in your acquaintances have a respect for you that comes close to being personal.

Helping to carry on the Bureau's work in publications and other information aids, I have many occasions to profit from your work. Meeting often other workers of the Bureau, I have many occasions to share their warm reminiscences of your days as Bureau Chief. So it is indeed a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to approach you somewhat as a personal friend. It would be a much greater pleasure to meet you, and your family also. You all have my good wishes, my very best good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

(Howard Zahniser)
Acting in Charge, Division of
Information.

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I recently saw the photograph of yourself and family at Columbus, and was gratified to see how well you all looked.

The picture of you reminded me of old times in the Bureau, and the fact that it was taken by Mr. Reed in Columbus also reminded me of my early childhood there. I lived on West Ninth Avenue, and often sneaked under the fence and "sampled" apples from the University orchard when it bordered on Eleventh Avenue.

With very best regards, I am

Yours truly,

(R. C. Wright)

America Grows Corn! By Howard Zahniser

WHEN SPRING comes to America
The farmers of 48 United States
Get up from their breakfasts
And plant a hundred million acres
Of Indian corn.

Out of the south into Texas
The corn-planting time moves into
February,
Drifts northward thirteen miles a day,
Sweeping northward across a nation,
Comes to March, to April, to May,
Comes to 48 sovereign and united states.

And in every State of the Union
The farmers get up and plant their
Indian corn.

(Only men grow corn.)

In Iowa where the tall corn grows,
In Ohio and Illinois,
In Indiana, Kansas, and Nebraska,
In Minnesota and Dakota,
In Georgia, where more acres grow corn
than any other state,
In Maine and California,
In Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee,
Alabama, and Louisiana--
In every State of the Union--
The farmers of America plant corn.

(Only men and their women grow corn.)

Corn for their sons, their daughters, their
children's children.
Corn for their countrymen,
For England, for Russia, for China,
Corn for all the peace-loving nations.

Roasting ears, corn-on-the-cob, succotash,
Canned corn, dried corn,
Corn meal mush,
Johnny cake, corn
flakes, corn
syrup.

Seed corn on a hundred million acres
Planted with care and with pride
To rise into the rank and file
Of the greatest crop that man has yet
substituted

Seed corn rising to feed
The cow, the pig, the poultry,
The livestock of 48 States.

Seed corn rising to feed
Man and woman and boys and girls.

Seed corn rising to feed them
With as good food as the good earth knows.

(Only men and their women plant corn
in the earth.)

Say "corn" to the English, and they think
about wheat.
Say "corn" to a Scotchman,
And he knows you're talking of oats.
Say "corn" to any man,
And he thinks of the greatest grain of his
native land.

Say "corn" to the American, and he knows
you mean CORN.

Be English and call it maize.
Be scientific with "Zea mays."
Call it whatever you will--
It grows on a hundred million American
acres,
Grows and yields right well--
Yields corn enough
To give two dozen bushels to every man,
woman, and child in the U.S.A.

Clear the living rooms of America!
Make way for Indian corn!

For every man, woman, and child in the
United States of America,
Two dozen bushels of Indian corn.

Picture the baby
On the living room floor
And twice a dozen baskets full of corn.

Picture the preacher
in the pulpit
And 24 bushels of Indian corn.

Picture every man, woman, and child
In the United States of America
With twice a dozen bushels of corn.

Make it into succotash, corn meal,
corn flakes, and syrup.

Or feed it to the cows, the hogs,
the chickens.

Feed ninety percent of America's cows
(And we do. We usually do.)
Feed ninety percent of America's corn
To the cows, the hogs, the turkeys,
the chickens--
And taste the beef,
The pork,
The milk, the cream, the cheese, the eggs,
And smell the bacon in a thousand kitchens.

And who grows the corn?

Only men and their women grow corn from
the earth.

Columbus discovered America in 1492.
Columbus discovered corn.
Cortes marched on the Aztecs,
And ate corn.
Pizarro pillaged Peru,
In 1532,
And the Incas were harvesting corn.

But no man knew
Where the wild corn grew.
And no man knows
Where wild corn grows.

(Only man grows corn from the earth.)

The scientists of America study corn--
Yet they don't know
Where the wild plants grow--
The scientists of America study corn,
And breeding and selecting,
And plotting and planning,
With tall talk
Of chromosomes, genes, and megaspores,
The plant breeder of America
Do a new thing under the sun
With their old friend genotype.
And Indian corn is hybrid corn!

Sing the praises of hybrid maize.
Sing the praises of man.
Men with their growing have managed to
raise
More bountiful corn than Nature can.

Take it you will an inbred strain.
Make your selections again and again.
Do it some more,
And choose out four.

Call one A, and call one B.
Call one C, and call one D.
Call them in rhyme,
(It's corn-planting time.)
It's corn-planting time
For A with his B,
And C with his D.

Watch the summer winds sweep
The tassels on A,
The pollen-rich tassels of A,
And at harvest time see
The harvest on B--
The full-ripened seed of the
detasseled B,
Predestined to mate with the
seed of C.

For C with his D
Has a way
You can say
Is like A's with his B.

But the grain that both yield
In the seed-grower's field
Makes no Johnny cake, corn meal,
or succotash,
Makes no chicken corn, cow feed
or hog mash.
It's fate
Is to mate;
It's deed
Is to breed.

So call them in rhyme again.
It's corn-planting time again.
And A's
With C's
Will cross and sublime again.

And the double-crossed grain that their
harvest will yield
Is a new kind of seed for the corn
farmer's field.

Thus science discloses
Controlled heterosis,
And hybrid vigor
Makes corn yields bigger.

And Indian corn is hybrid corn.

And the farmers of America
In the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred
and thirty-three
Rise up from their breakfasts
And plant 100 thousand acres of hybrid corn.

And when harvest time comes
They sing it.
And ten years later
They rise up from their breakfasts
And plant fifty MILLION acres.

Sing the praises of hybrid corn
to the tune of 20 percent.
Hybrid corn in our ears . . .
keeps the yield to 20 percent.

Yes, Sir:
The corn growers of America
Get six hundred and fifty million bushels more
For their time and their trouble
Than they could have
without the magic of hybrid corn.

Sing the praises of hybrid corn
to the tune of 20 percent.
Hybrid corn in Indian ears
keeps the yield to 20 percent.

Feed it to the hogs of America.
Feed 550 million bushels of Indian corn
And we feed them more than that. We certainly do.
Feed 550 million hogs of Indian corn
To the greedy, grunting, squealing, pore-growing
pigs of America,
And how much pork do you get?

BROTHER, you get pork enough
To give three pounds
To every man, woman, and child in the face of the
earth.

Sing the praises of hybrid corn
to the tune of 20 percent.
Hybrid corn in Indian ears
keeps the yield to 20 percent.

Sing the praises of hybrid corn
to the tune of 20 percent.
Hybrid corn in Indian ears
keeps the yield to 20 percent.

Growing corn is a human thing.
When Spring comes to America
The farmers of 48 United States
Get up from their breakfasts--
They and their sons and their daughters--
In every State of the Union
The farmers of America
Rise up from their breakfasts
And plant a hundred million acres of Indian corn.

And before
And behind them
Across the corn fields of America
A nation
moves
with
them.

Hybrid corn grows:

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Berwyn Maryland
Aug. 22-1944.

My Dear Friend:

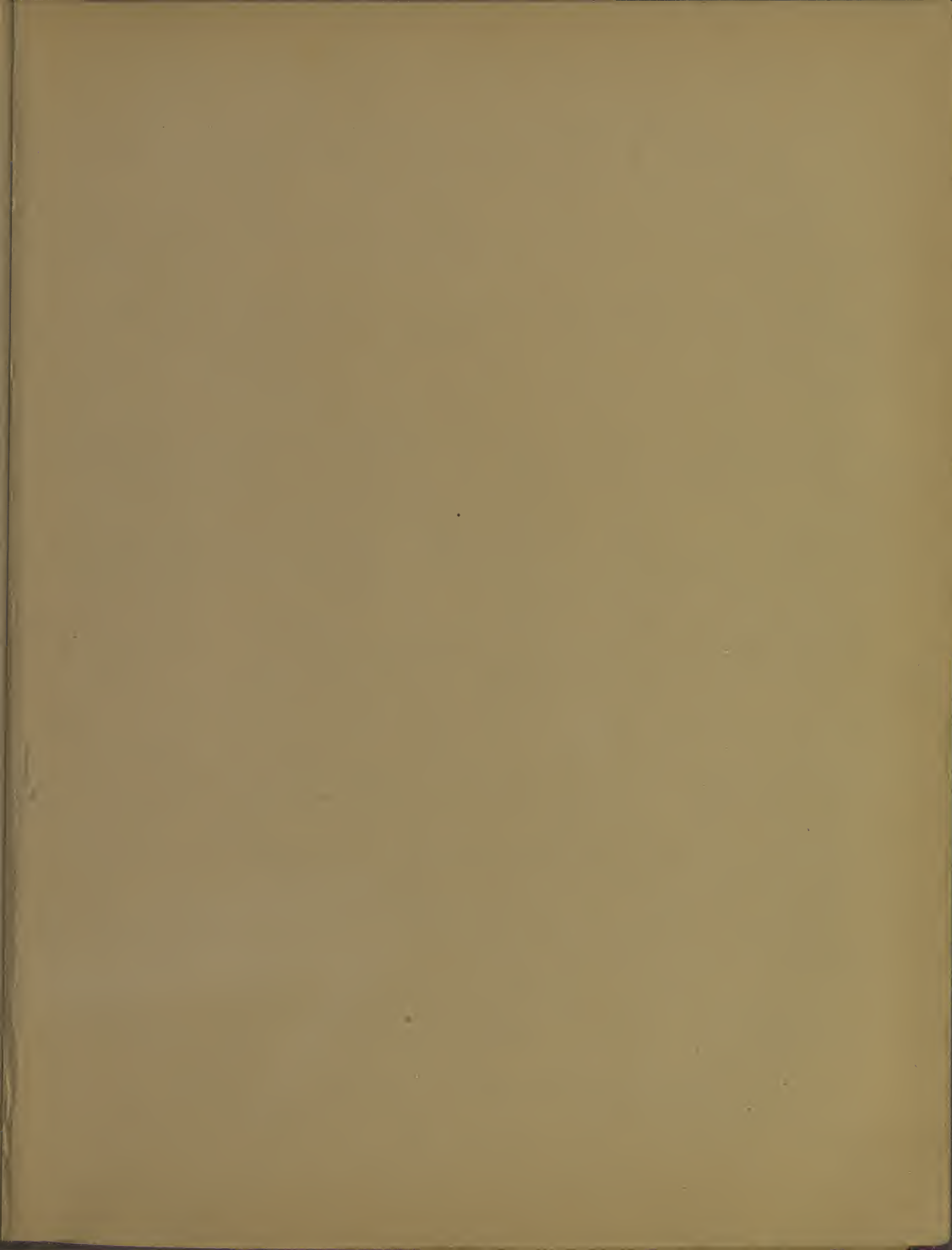
It was a great pleasure to see the photograph of you and Mrs. Taylor and your son taken by Mr. Reed. It will be placed in my collection of long time friends.

I judge from the picture that all of you are in fine health and ready for anything that comes your way.

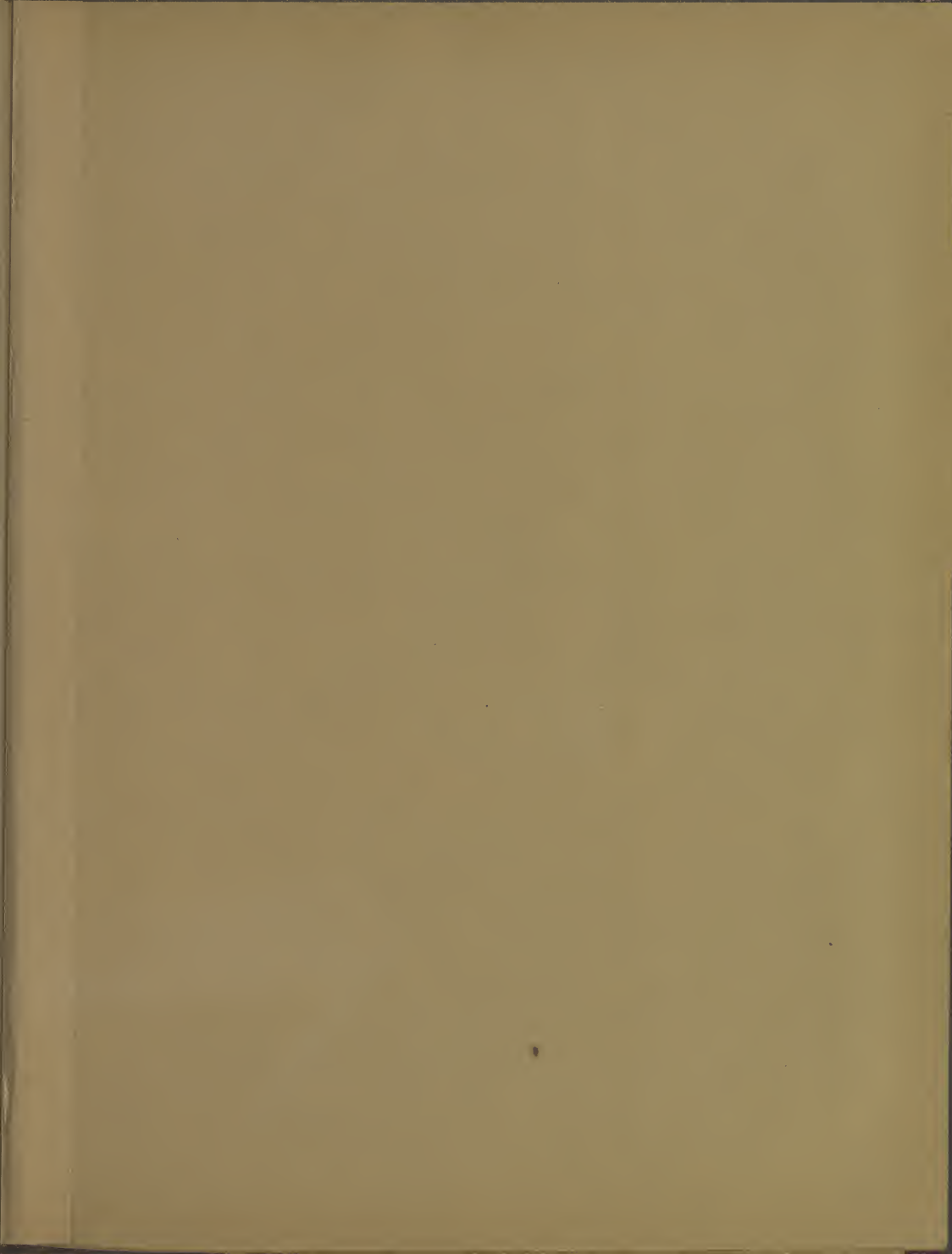
May all of you live long and happily.

Sincerely
A. H. Woods

Dr. W. A. Taylor
Columbus Ohio.







Value of the useless

IT HAS BEEN said that good research scientists find out more valuable things by accident than the ordinary run of people ever do on purpose. This is not quite true, but has its merits as an approximation. It is also a fact that basic research workers often seem to concentrate most intensively on problems that appear to have no possible value to humanity. But the utility of the seemingly useless knowledge they accumulate is often surprising.

Many years ago Karl Wilhelm von Nägeli, a brilliant Swiss botanist, was studying the fresh-water alga belonging to the genus *Spirogyra*, known to laymen as "frog spittle" or "green slime." This alga grows in ponds and slow streams. To the naked eye it looks like fine, long, green silk thread. But it is easy to see the living cell in operation and that is why this plant is often selected for study.

True, a visiting committee of farmers or businessmen might not have been suitably impressed with the activities of a scientist who frittered his time away on frog spit-
tle. They would probably have been as disgusted as was Nägeli when he could no longer get the alga to grow in his carefully prepared solutions which contained everything a well-mannered alga should want in just the right proportions to please.

The alga died

However, the alga disconsolately died every time. Day after day

Nägeli tried to find out why. At long last he discovered that minute traces of copper from his bronze laboratory faucet caused the water he used to kill the alga. The amount of copper involved was so small that no known method of chemical testing revealed it, but an optical test indicated it was 1 part in 50 million parts of the water. That little bit of copper killed the alga, a fact Nägeli recorded in a little pamphlet and then went on to other things.

This remained untranslated and almost forgotten for fifty years. Then a cress grower appeared in the USDA and complained that he and other growers were being put out of business because some disease killed the cress. Dr. George T. Moore was sent to investigate. He found that *Spirogyra* was smothering the cress, and he thought immediately of Nägeli's forgotten pamphlet.

Where the trail led

Arrangements were made to add 1 part of copper per 50 million parts of water in the cress beds. This destroyed the alga without injury to the cress. That led to further study of the use of copper in destroying algae of various kinds which impart an objectionable taste and odor to the water in some reservoirs. Methods were worked out of using copper for this purpose and these became standard sanitary engineering practice.

It was then observed that certain species of pathogenic bacteria in the water—those of the colon group, for instance—could be destroyed by the introduction of small quantities of copper, with no danger to those who drank the water. This killed certain types of fish, however. That fact led to the testing of chlorine to kill the objectionable bacteria. That was effective without injury to the fish or algae. Its use also became standard practice in some reservoirs.

Then it was observed that traces of copper killed mosquito larvae. Colonel Gorgas next suggested that some USDA men be sent to help him clean up the Isthmus of Panama, and Karl Kellerman was assigned the job. Study of the value of copper in nutrition was another step that followed in other institutions. It was found that diets deficient in copper produced secondary anemias and that a trace of copper was also essential for plant growth. So much for Nägeli's penchant for monkeying around with frog spit-
tle.

USDA: January 8, 1944

